

## Iranians hint at accepting UN mediation

### Demand for ousting of Iraqi leader dropped

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

As the American naval convoy of two reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and three escorting frigates neared its destination in the upper reaches of the Gulf last night it became clear that Iran might after all accept United Nations mediation to end the Gulf War.

But its renewed terms for peace, including an end to all French arms sales to Iraq and an immediate halt to an increased US military presence in the area, are not going to produce much jubilation in Washington or, for that matter, in Baghdad.

## CAA seeks referral of air merger

By Colin Narborough

The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday called for a referral of the proposed merger between British Airways and British Caledonian to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The airlines' trade unions, however, called for a go-ahead to safeguard jobs.

Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, must decide whether to refer the £237 million tie-up but his ruling is not expected until next month. A referral would mean months of delay and trouble for the ailing B-Cal.

Britannia Airways, the country's biggest independent airline, called on the Government to open up Gatwick, as Britain's second-largest hub airport, to other airlines. Protecting B-Cal as the "second force" airline by reserving Gatwick routes for it was no longer necessary.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the CAA chairman, said its scope for influencing the future shape of the aviation sector was limited, despite the "important issues of airline competition and airports policy" involved. Only new legislation could alter this.

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## IN PART 2

### Midland rises

Interim profits at Midland Bank were raised by 29 per cent to £251 million. The bank said it had no intention of selling parts of its business beyond those disposals already agreed. Page 21

### Exam results

Degree results from Reading University and a law class list from Oxford are published today. Page 26

### Portfolio

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize was won yesterday by three readers who will receive £1,333 each. Details, page 3. ● Portfolio list, page 25.

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## Convoy heads for safe waters

From Our Own Correspondent Dubai

Unimpeded by Silksworm missiles, Iranian fighter bombers, gunboats and allegedly suicidal Revolutionary Guards, American warships are expected to shepherd the US-flagged supertanker Bridgeton up to Kuwait's offshore oil terminal just after eight o'clock this morning for a hurried loading operation and a swift run back down the 550 miles of Gulf sea lanes to the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend.

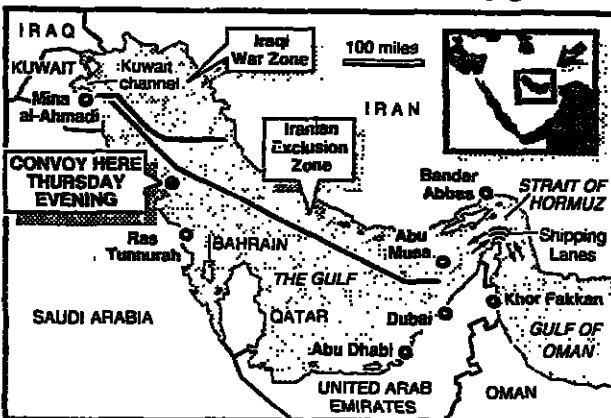
The 401,382-tonne Kuwaiti tanker was moving up the Gulf parallel to the Saudi coastline last night accompanied by the 46,723-tonne American-flagged gas carrier Gas Prince with its escort of three US frigates after a voyage which was disturbed only by the brief approach of some Iranian F-4 fighter-bombers from their base at Bandar Abbas.

The planes, which flew up to a point 15 miles from the little convoy on Wednesday, turned away after US fighters from the carrier Constellation — itself cruising in the Gulf of Oman — had warned them away. As Captain William Mathis of the US missile frigate Fox put it yesterday in that sanitised language that American servicemen tend to adopt on such occasions: "The transit has been... very, very benign."

Given Iraq's apparent decision to halt all attacks on Iranian shipping for the present — indeed, its failure to stage any such attacks for the past 10 days — the transitory success of "Operation Earnest Will" was probably guaranteed. The Iraqis have always said they will only assault Kuwaiti shipping in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on their own tankers, and they appear to have kept their word.

Yesterday morning, flying at 10,000 feet over the Gulf in a civilian aircraft, I could see the huge Bridgeton moving at speed up the coast past Bah.

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## Missile treaty hopes falter

By Andrew McEwen and Philip Webster

Prospects for an East-West treaty eliminating medium-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles yesterday took a step backwards yesterday after striding forward on Wednesday.

Moscow followed up the concession announced by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev by digging its heels in on an issue the West had been desperately hoping it would quietly drop.

Without directly demanding a *quid-pro-quo*, senior Soviet officials made it clear that, having agreed to give up the 100 medium-range missile warheads they had wanted to keep in Asia, it was for Washington to make the next move. They mentioned three demands, but the central one was that West Germany's 72 Pershing 1A shorter-range missiles should be eliminated.

This demand was emphasized by Mr Alexei Obukov, the Soviet arms negotiator, when he presented Moscow's offer at the Geneva arms talks.

The same point was made in Moscow: "It is not a trifling matter. These warheads are equivalent in power to 10 or

20 times the bomb dropped on Hiroshima," said Mr Yuri Vorontsov, Deputy Foreign Minister.

This dashed Western hopes that Moscow was merely creating a bargaining chip when it brought up the 1As for the first time earlier this year. It also threatened to re-

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vive a split in the West German cabinet that took Nato months to overcome earlier this year.

Before it became clear yesterday how strongly Soviet officials were now emphasizing the Pershing 1As, Western leaders appeared pleased with Mr Gorbachev's concession.

The Prime Minister told the Commons that she would "warmly welcome" the Soviet proposals provided that no conditions were attached.

A Downing Street official said later that until Geneva offer had been studied in detail, it would be impossible

to give an overall assessment. Mrs Thatcher insisted that any agreement would have to be verifiable, during the phasing out of the missiles and afterwards.

There was considerable satisfaction in Downing Street that Mr Gorbachev's move had come after the continued pressure from Mrs Thatcher for the "double zero" solution.

Mrs Thatcher has made clear her belief that a world-wide abolition of intermediate nuclear weapons would be much easier to verify than the plan to keep 100 for each side outside Europe.

The same point was stressed yesterday by Lord Carrington, Nato's Secretary General, who also said that he could not believe that the Pershing 1As, an issue introduced "at the last moment", would be the cause of holding up the whole agreement.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons yesterday: "If it is without conditions we warmly welcome it." She said: "Any agreement on intermediate nuclear weapons must be thoroughly verifiable."

## Brummie pied pipers call end to rule of king rat

By Craig Seton and Robin Young

Birmingham has got its rats up. Up from the sewers, that is, in increasingly large numbers every day to hunt for accommodation, food and nesting places in houses, offices and shops.

The rodents are also gnawing at the city's telephone and electricity cables, so that now the Hamelin of the Midlands has been obliged to announce that it is to appoint three full-time rat catchers, at a cost of £50,000 a year.

The municipal pied pipers will become the city's first permanent "sewer baiting team", licensed to kill thousands of rats.

It is not believed that the city's

plight is yet quite as bad as that in Rome, where rats outnumber Romans by 11 to one, but the Birmingham rats are breeding so quickly and adventuring so persistently from the sewers that officials believe that two more full-time anti-rodent squads will be needed, costing another £100,000.

Up to 70 per cent of manholes baited in the city have shown rat infestation, a figure well in excess of the acceptable level laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which suggests a limit of 10 per cent for a large urban authority.

So concerned are city officials that they are also establishing a "Kill a Rat" telephone service so that the public can report sightings of rats.

Mr David Bowman, the city's

assistant director of environmental services, said: "I am not aware of any other British city which has a permanent team of rat catchers."

The rest of the nation's estimated 1,300 pest control officers get a more varied diet, it seems, being permitted occasionally to take time away from chasing rats to exterminate earwigs, persecute pigeons or assassinate ants. But the Brummie rattlers will rat without respite.

Mr Bowman said: "We have got a very extensive infestation in the city, basically because of the favourable breeding conditions in the sewers... and, after all, rats do breed like, well, like rats."

The council is to advertise for the three members of its sewer baiting

team with the senior pest control officer scheduled to receive a salary of up to £10,000.

Mr Bowman said there were training courses, organized by specialist anti-rodent training agencies, for rat catchers. The Birmingham team would use a bait of wax food impregnated with poison, with the cost being met by the Severn-Trent Water Authority.

Mr Peter Baileman, past president of the British Pest Control Association, said it was unusual for a council to employ a full-time rat catching squad but the money being spent was cheap when compared with the damage rats could do. "Sewers are highways for rats and the key to a rat-free city is a rat-free sewer system."

## Judge outlines key questions for jury



Mr Justice Caulfield outside the High Court yesterday.

## Did Jeffrey Archer need cold sex with a prostitute?

The judge presiding over Mr Jeffrey Archer's libel action against *The Star* newspaper yesterday invited the jury to consider whether the former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party had been "in need of cold, unloving, rubber-insulated sex in a seedy hotel."

Mr Justice Caulfield, continuing his summing up on the thirteenth day of the case, said that the paper's story alleging that Mr Archer paid £70 for sex with a prostitute was not impossible, but, the jury had to reflect, was it probable?

"Remember Mary Archer in the witness box," he told the jury at the High Court in London. "Your vision of her will probably never disappear. Has she elegance? Has she fragrance? Would she have — without the strain of this trial — a radiance?"

"What is she like in physical features? In presentation? In appearance? How would she appear?"

"Has she had a happy married life? Has she been able to enjoy rather than endure her husband Jeffrey?"

"Is she right when she says to you — you may think with delicacy — Jeffrey and I lead a full life?"

Mr and Mrs Archer, he told the jury of eight men and four women, celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary on the first Saturday of the trial, July 11.

"They are blessed — no doubt they would say — with two sons who are possibly at their most attractive ages and interesting periods of 13 and 15."

"Although her husband is

obviously busy and leads a careering political life throughout the country, he comes home at the weekends, and a couple of days a week Mary, who has great distinction in her own right, is in London.

"So, is there any abstinence from marital joys for Archer — for Jeffrey?"

"And look at him," said the judge, referring the jury to Mr Archer, sitting in court, listening intently, beside his wife. "What is his history?"

"His history, you may think, is worthy and healthy and sporting."

"What is always a great attribute of the British is their admiration, besides their enjoyment, of good sports like cricket and athletics."

"And Jeffrey Archer was President of the Oxford University Athletic Club and ran for his country."

"You may think he's fit looking and you may think he's still interested in an athletic life in that he brings his son to London on a Saturday or Sunday morning to take part in a run in Hyde Park."

"Is he in need of cold, unloving, rubber-insulated sex in a seedy hotel, round about a quarter to one on a Tuesday morning after an evening at The Caprice with his editor?"

Le Caprice restaurant in Arlington Street, St James's, central London, is where Mr Archer claims he was in the company of friends on the night of September 8-9 last year, when *The Star* alleged he had paid £70 for sex with Miss Coghlan.

The millionaire novelist is Continued on page 3, col 1

## Cabinet prepares for bitter autumn battle on spending

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday prepared the stage for a difficult autumn battle over public spending by deciding to maintain a rigorous financial approach aimed at reducing government expenditure next year as a proportion of the national income.

But in a significant departure from past practice it recognized in advance that it may not be able to hold to the Treasury's target for next year of £154.2 billion. It agreed instead to try to get as close as possible to that figure rather than stick rigidly to it.

Bids from the spending ministers already total more than £6 billion over that figure. Last year's spending target was ultimately breached by £4.7 billion mainly because of election pledges. Although the Government has given itself some leeway this year, Whitehall sources were making plain

that such a large divergence from the target could not be contemplated this year.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, pointed out to the Cabinet that the economy's current strength was built on its past policies of restraint.

The Treasury's most difficult talks will be with Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, and Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence.

Mr Ridley will be pressing for a substantial increase to cover spending on the new urban development corporations and the housing action trusts and to cope with the £800m overrun in local authority spending revealed yesterday.

Rate support, page 20

## Left-wing councils face inner city cash freeze

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Urban areas controlled by extreme left-wing Labour councils may be frozen out of a major part of the Government's inner cities drive under a policy shift being considered by ministers.

They are thinking of setting up their second generation of mini urban development corporations (UDCs) in areas where local government is in the hands of Labour moderates.

The North-east and Midlands, where the municipal left's old guard dominates local government, have emerged as the most likely candidates for the mix of Whitehall and private sector largesse that has revitalized

areas such as the London and Merseyside docks.

In a separate move, the Department of the Environment intends to plunge into the local government propaganda war.

Ministers have been angered by the tendency of many councils to ignore the Government's financial contribution to projects such as the refurbishment of council housing estates.

In future they intend to instruct council leaders to display on-site signs making it clear that Whitehall has also played a role.

The Government was originally thinking of boosting its

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## Shultz 'was left in dark over Iranian arms deal'

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, told the Iran-Contra committee yesterday that he first learnt that America had sold weapons to Iran when he read about it in newspapers, and he was "sick to my stomach" when he discovered some of the details.

Terse, sombre and clearly still furious at being systematically kept in the dark over the Iran initiative, the first day of his testimony painted an extraordinary picture of deliberate deception within the

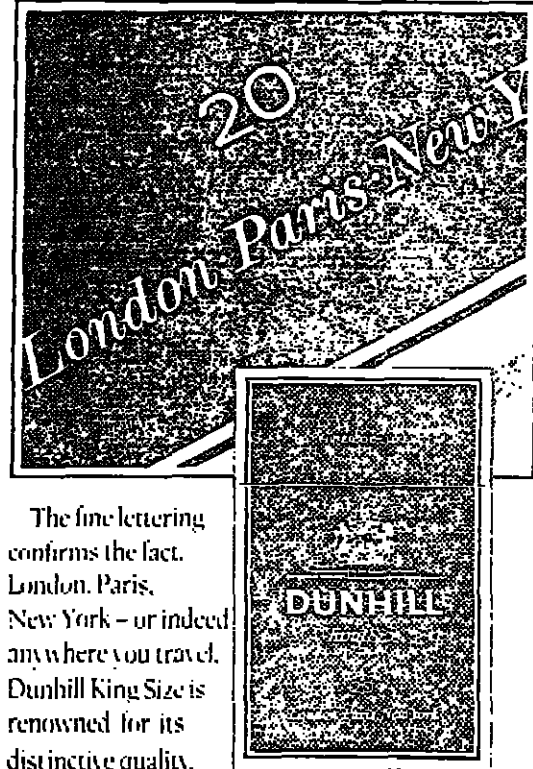
White House and attempts to frustrate his efforts to find out what was going on.

Mr Shultz said he was not told that President Reagan

Shultz testimony 6

had authorized arms sales until almost a year after the formal papers were signed. He did not know that there had been an original "finding" in December 1985 until he learned about it, with the rest Continued on page 20, col 2

## The King Size from Dunhill



The fine lettering confirms the fact. London, Paris, New York — or indeed anywhere you travel, Dunhill King Size is renowned for its distinctive quality. Created by master blenders, employing care, patience and infinite skill, Dunhill King Size offers exceptional smoothness.

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Warning: SMOKING CAN CAUSE FATAL DISEASES  
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers



# Inquiry at range after girl is shot

An inquiry started yesterday into how a girl sleeping in a tent was hit by a bullet from a Ministry of Defence firing range more than a mile away.

Deborah Little, aged 14, of Beatrice Street, Swindon, Wiltshire, was grazed on the forehead by the 7.6mm bullet, fired by a Royal Marine cadet on the range at Penally, near Tenby, west Wales.

The girl said: "I felt a knock on the head and thought it was my brother messing about. Then we noticed a hole in the tent roof and found the bullet. I was really scared."

The range was immediately closed down and an investigation ordered. The range has been used for 100 years to test rifles and small arms.

## Plastic ships

The Royal Navy's new high technology, plastic minehunters are to be built by the newly privatized Vosper Thornycroft yard in Southampton.

The order, worth £120 million, was announced yesterday by the Ministry of Defence. It will safeguard 500 jobs at the yard and could create 500 more in supplying companies.

The new ships, 25 per cent cheaper than the vessels they replace, will be made from glass-reinforced plastic to avoid setting off magnetic mines.

## Shot man 'critical'

The Arab cartoonist who was shot in the head by a gunman outside his newspaper office in Chelsea on Wednesday remained in a critical condition in a London hospital as Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch searched for witnesses.

Mr Ali Naji al-Adhami, a Palestinian who came to London in 1985, was kept on a life support machine yesterday and moved during the day from St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, to the Charing Cross Hospital for tests.

## Lecturer jobs at risk

University vice-chancellors are to be given the power to dismiss lecturers who can no longer afford to employ, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced yesterday.

The Government is also planning to give all universities the power to dismiss lecturers for inefficiency - but there will be a right of appeal.

The Inner London Education Authority is to be rate-capped for the fourth successive year, Mr Baker announced yesterday.

## Lead-free deadline

All new cars must be able to run on lead-free petrol by October 1, 1990, the Government said last night (Our Political Reporter writes).

The announcement comes after an agreement by the European Environment Council which enables all member states to specify dates by which new cars have to be able to use lead-free petrol. For new models of more than two litres capacity the deadline is October next year, for other new models it is October 1989 and for all new cars it is October 1990.

## Boycott ignored

The inquiry panel taking evidence on the murder of Kimberley, the girl aged four who was battered to death by her stepfather, has said it can complete a full report whether or not the social workers from the Wirral give evidence.

The files on the child's mother, Pauline Carlisle, and her children were all forwarded from Wirral social services department in June.

Mr Peter Bailey, secretary of the panel, said that there was enough evidence in the files to continue the inquiry.

## Alliance 'wounded'

Mr John Cartwright, the closest political ally of Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, last night claimed that even if a small majority of his party voted for a merger with the Liberals in next month's ballot it was no longer a viable option.

Mr Cartwright, MP for Woolwich, told a meeting in Kent it was obvious that there was no overwhelming desire for a merger. A forced merger would not heal the wounds of the past six weeks. It would aggravate them.

The Liberal Party announced yesterday that its opposition to the Government throughout the present parliamentary session will centre on its proposals to replace the rates with a poll tax.

## Missing passports man in US

An official from the Irish embassy allegedly involved in selling false passports for up to £15,000 has fled from London to the United States.

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the allegations are expected to apply for the extradition of Mr Kevin McDonald, aged 37, a passport officer at the embassy in London. It is not known whether he still has diplomatic immunity.

Mr McDonald's exact whereabouts have been unknown since last April when he left his home in Chiswick, west London, after allegations were published in the *Sunday People* that he sold false passports to Libyans, Iranians, Lebanese and Moroccans during a four-year period.

Two "loyalist" prisoners now entering their forty-seventh day on hunger strike have taken legal steps to prevent their parents intervening to save their lives. The two brothers are to give power of attorney to two fellow inmates, making them next of kin.

## Zeebrugge disaster Inquiry judge reports today

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Mr Justice Sheen, who today presents his report on the Zeebrugge disaster, is expected to emphasize the need to find ways of reducing the risk of cross-Channel roll-on-roll-off ferries capsizing if the main car deck floods.

The report comes 20 weeks after the loss of the Townsend Thoresen ferry, Herald of Free Enterprise, which capsized with the loss of nearly 200 lives on March 6, after sailing with her bow doors open.

The judge, who took evidence at public hearings which lasted 29 days, will deliver his findings at the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

It is unlikely that his judgement will be controversial, as there was unanimity at the hearings that the capsizing was caused by the bow doors being left open.

He will, however, have to allocate responsibility both among officers and crew and express his view of the management of Townsend Thoresen.

In the case of the officers, he will have to say whether any should have their professional certificates withdrawn or downgraded.

He will also have to decide whether any members of Townsend Thoresen management should be criticized by name.

It has already been decided that, as is usual after a formal public investigation, the Department of Transport is not to bring any prosecutions.

To judge from Mr Justice Sheen's interventions in the closing days of the public hearings early last month, it may be that the immediate circumstances of the capsizing at Zeebrugge will not be his main pre-occupation.

He may feel that with improved procedures, the installation of closed circuit television and warning lights, enough is being done to ensure that a ferry will not again sail with its bow doors open.

What appeared to be most concerning him was not that particular accident but the general question of the vulnerability of ferries to capsizing when damaged, whether as a result of a collision, a stranding, or of the bow doors being left open.

It is unlikely that he will make detailed technical recommendations, simply because of the complexity of the issues, but it seems likely that he will strongly encourage research which is now going on into ways of reducing the danger.

He may suggest water-tight bulkheads as a way of breaking up the area of the car deck without destroying the commercial viability of the vessel.

He may also want improvements to car deck drainage though evidence at the public hearings made it clear that no system of cuppers could have coped with the quantities of sea which flooded the Herald.

He is likely to insist on more effective methods of reading the draught of ferries, checking ballast tank levels, counting passengers and weighing freight.

It seems likely, also, that he will call for a more effective regulatory system than the one now administered by the Department of Transport.

Hundreds of ferry passengers will face delays and changes to their sailings this weekend because a Portsmouth-based Townsend Thoresen ferry is undergoing emergency repairs in a French dry dock.

# Conservancy cry starts storm over bogs

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Nature Conservancy Council yesterday ran into a barrage of criticism after calling for an immediate moratorium on all further forestry planting in the Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland.

The Highland and Islands Development Board countered the call by accusing the council of failing to consider conflicting interests.

"This report and its proposals, drawn up without consultation or regard for the delicate economic and social fabric of the northern Highlands, and based on narrowly focused scientific research, is the most swinging act of excessive zeal yet seen from the NCC", Mr Robert Cowan, the board's chairman, said.

Mr Robert MacLennan, SDP MP for Caithness and Sutherland, said the conservancy council's description of its report on afforestation as a scientific document was "preposterous".

Mr William Wilkinson, chairman of the conservancy council, said that tree planting in the Flow Country, and the damage it would do to wildlife, was the most important conservation issue of at least the past 30 years.

The blanket bogs of Caithness and Sutherland were possibly the largest single expanse of their kind in the world, he said. They formed the largest area of natural habitat in the United Kingdom.

They were of global significance and supported a particular mixture of northern birdlife not found anywhere else in the world.

"We call therefore on the Government to declare a moratorium on all planting and on grants for planting in this area", Mr Wilkinson said.

"We all see the need to look after Westminster Abbey and the Taj Mahal, and revile those who blew up the Parthenon. Do the masterpieces of God and nature deserve anything else?"

As soon as Mr Wilkinson had finished his presentation of the report, Mr Ronald Cramond, vice-chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, said he was saddened, disappointed and personally distressed by its contents.

He suggested that any attempt to stop the further afforestation of up to a million acres would provoke a backlash in the north of Scotland that would take years to undo.

with the loss of 2,000 jobs in the longer term.

Mr Duncan Macpherson, vice-convenor of the Highland Regional Council, said he was extremely disappointed that there had been no consultation whatever with various bodies, including his council.

Asked whether it was true that the conservancy council had issued its report without consulting a single regional body, Mr Wilkinson agreed that it had. The report was a scientific paper, not a total solution, he said.

Birds, bogs and forestry (Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA; £10).



Guide dog Peter sporting a black bow tie after acting as best man yesterday for Mr Andrew Miles, his owner, who married Miss Wendy Scream in Middlesbrough, Teesside. The dog carried the couple's wedding rings to the ceremony in a special pouch on his collar.

## Paper faces new legal ban

The Attorney General may take fresh proceedings against *The Sunday Times* to stop it publishing extracts from the memoirs of Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, if the Government fails to have the current bans on publication reinstated (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Mr John Mummery, counsel for the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, said yesterday that if the Court of Appeal upheld the lifting of injunctions against various newspapers by the High Court on Wednesday, Sir Patrick would consider applying for an injunction against *The Sunday Times* for breach of confidence.

That was because the newspaper was publishing with the authority of Mr Wright, author of *Spycatcher*, he said in the Court of Appeal.

The temporary injunction obtained last week against the newspaper was for allegedly being in contempt of banning orders then in force against *The Guardian* and *The Observer*.

Mr Anthony Lester, QC for *The Sunday Times*, said if the Attorney General tried to gag the newspaper with a new injunction, he would call Sir Robert Armstrong, the former Cabinet Secretary, for cross-examination to see "whether there really were national security or other grounds" to justify its being granted.

The Attorney General is asking Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lords Justices Gibson and Russell, to reverse Wednesday's ruling by Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, the Vice Chancellor, that injunctions against *The Sunday Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Observer* should be lifted. Judgement is expected today.

## New laws holding up court work

Government legislation is a main reason for delays in processing criminal cases in magistrates' courts, according to a Home Office report (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act and the introduction of the Crown Prosecution Service are two of the measures blamed.

A Home Office Statistical Bulletin analyses the time taken to process cases.

"Average times were longer in both June and October 1986 than in the corresponding months of 1985".

The average time from offence to completion of proceedings increased by about nine days to 19 weeks in the 12 months to October 1986.

For indictable offences the average increased by 12 days but for summary offences the increase was slightly lower at seven days.

Home Office Statistical Bulletin, *Statistics of The Times Taken to Process Criminal Cases in Magistrates' Courts June 1985 to October 1986*. (Statistical Department, Home Office, Lunar House, Croydon, Surrey CR0 9YD; £2.50).

## Air miss incidents falling, says CAA

By Our Transport Correspondent

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, its chairman, denied that there were problems with the main central computer but he acknowledged that there had been difficulties with the power supply to the computer.

A new power supply was soon to be brought in and consultants would be advising on the software, he said. Over the next five years the authority would spend £200 million on new equipment.

However, because of peak traffic in the summer, when traffic increases had been as much as 20 to 25 per cent, the CAA had introduced for the first time a system for smoothing out traffic flows so that if there was a danger of an air sector receiving more aircraft than it could accept, aircraft were told to remain on the ground and entry from foreign air space was refused.

Mr Tugendhat admitted that there were problems of morale among air traffic controllers. He said that because of the rate of growth of air traffic, a reduction in the numbers of air traffic controllers of more than 130 would no longer be necessary.

The Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday that the number of near misses by aircraft over Britain was "showing a remarkable downward trend".

But the authority acknowledged that some incidents where aircraft came too close to each other went unrecorded.

Its annual report shows that in 1986-87 there had been no passenger fatalities on scheduled or chartered flights on British registered fixed-wing aircraft though there had been the loss of 45 lives when a Chinook helicopter crashed off the Shetland Islands.

The number of risk-bearing air-misses by passenger aircraft declined from 45 in 1977 to 16 in 1986, but the number of aircraft movements increased substantially, so that recorded air-misses declined from 11.3 per 100,000 hours flown in 1977 to 2.8 in 1986.

The CAA has been criticized recently because of a number of air-misses and because it is claimed that the computer at West Drayton air traffic control centre is unreliable, that security is lax, and morale low.

# Morality message for TV viewers

By Ruth Gledhill

The scene has been set for a new television "morality" the Independent Broadcasting Authority says in its annual report published yesterday.

The viewing public is to be subjected to increased numbers of Aids-related dramas and information programmes after a big "sea-change" in television programming.

The freedom enjoyed by the "amoral womanizer" in programmes such as *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* is to be curtailed to bring television drama in line with current thinking on Aids.

More fictional victims of the disease are to "die" on television and promiscuous characters "may never again be able to enjoy quite the same freedom".

Research carried out on behalf of the IBA disclosed that the number of people who thought Aids was an important problem facing the nation decreased after a two-week campaign, although knowledge about the disease increased.

"Very few people thought they stood a high risk of contracting the disease themselves, though it was an increasingly widespread topic of conversation."

The report adds: "Not every young lover in television drama has ended up in bed. But the conventional presumption is that couples do couple. That presumption is now challenged."

The Aids campaign produced large numbers of complaints from the public, the report shows.

Complaints relating to the taste and decency of television programmes increased - by more than a third compared to the previous year; complaints about advertisements doubled.

The IBA intervened to withdraw the series *Hardwick House* after just two episodes when more than 50 viewers complained, and specifically censured Thames television for the *Des O'Connor Tonight Live* show.

The show attracted the largest number of complaints of any programme, the language used and more than a third of the total number of complaints about language. More than 50 viewers rang up to complain after the show featured Oliver Reed, the actor, and Stan Boardman, the comedian.

Out of 3,483 letters or telephone calls received, there were 16 cases where remedial action was thought necessary.

The debate among doctors about whether patients should be tested for traces of Aids infection without their consent has surfaced in the *British Medical Journal* today.

The Guild of Catholic Doctors says informed consent should be obtained and the British Medical Association's decision to allow secret tests was described as "utterly disastrous" by the Gay Medical Association.

Other doctors argued that medical staff needed to be protected.

The Health Education Authority has called for an extra £6 million this year to fund a new Aids education programme.

## Drug hope for cancer patients

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Breast cancer patients survive longer and are less prone to relapse if they take the drug tamoxifen from the time the disease is first diagnosed, a British study has shown.

The results of the study, involving more than 1,300 women, are published in *The Lancet* today.

The director of the study, Dr Helen Stewart, said in Edinburgh yesterday: "This is very good news for all women at risk of breast cancer."

The women treated were aged between 50 and 79 when the study began, with an average age of 58 years. The benefits were obtained when the drug was used in addition to surgical treatment.

Dr Stewart said: "The drug is now widely used to combat breast cancer, but further research is necessary before it should be prescribed for all younger women."

The Government has announced the sites of 14 regional breast cancer screening centres as the first stage of its nationwide screening programme for older women.

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, said by March 1990 there would be enough centres to provide a nationwide service.

## Fewer animal experiments

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The number of animal experiments in 1986 was the lowest for 30 years, according to Home Office statistics issued yesterday.

The total fell for the tenth year in succession, bringing the number of experiments started on living animals to 3.1 million, just over half that started 10 years earlier and about 170,000 fewer than in 1985.

About 80 per cent of experiments (2,450,000) were performed on mice or rats, and the rest on birds, fish, guinea pigs and rabbits.

The number of experiments started in 1986 and involving the application of substances to rabbits' eyes, mainly eye irritation tests, was 7,100, the Home Office says, slightly more than in 1985 but fewer than in any of the previous eight years.

The proportion of experiments in which anaesthesia was involved increased from 24 per cent in 1985 to 27 per cent in 1986, continuing an upwards trend since 1978, when it was 18 per cent.

The Home Office says that in just over half of the experiments in 1986 the primary purpose was to select, develop or study the use, hazards or safety of medical, dental or veterinary products or appliances. The study of normal or abnormal body structure or function was the next most common primary purpose.

The statistics relate to experiments on living animals subject to the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, which was replaced by more rigorous controls last January.

Statistics of Experiments on Living Animals, Great Britain, 1986 (Stationery Office; £5.40).

## Correction

Tass, the manufacturing union, will not be calling for the revision of the EEC's at the TUC conference next September, as reported on July 11.

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gal ban  
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riments  
Drug for cancer patients

## Employers accused of breaking law by permitting smoking

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Employers could be prosecuted for allowing people to smoke at work due to the increased risk of lung cancer and other health hazards to passive smokers, the Health Education Authority claimed yesterday.

An HEA report on smoking policies at work, published yesterday, says that employers could be guilty of criminal offences under both the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974.

Speaking at the launch of the publications, Miss Gillian Howard, a lawyer and industrial relations consultant, also said that employers who introduced no smoking policies would be able to dismiss staff who were found smoking at work.

Miss Howard said that under the Public Health Act employers had a duty to keep the atmosphere free from "noxious effluvia".

That included any exhaled substance affecting the lungs or sense of smell. Employers could be liable if such substances made anyone who was already sick, more ill or if it

increased the threat of a disease. The Health and Safety at Work Act gives employers a duty to keep the working environment safe, she said.

Although there has been no test case in this country, successful compensation cases have been brought by non-smokers against their employers in Australia and the United States.

Mr David Simpson, director of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said that ASH had recently been approached by several lawyers on the issue.

"I suspect that several cases will reach the courts this year", Mr Simpson said.

The report, published jointly with King's College School of Medicine, says that there is now conclusive evidence that breathing in other people's smoke does increase the risk of lung cancer.

Earlier this year an interim report from the Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health, which advises the Government, said that non-smokers were between 10 and 30 per cent more likely to get lung cancer

if they were exposed to tobacco smoke.

Sir Richard Doll, from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, has said that the risk of contracting lung cancer from passive smoking is 50 times greater than exposure to asbestos contained in buildings.

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, gave her full support to the HEA publication yesterday.

The Government had not ruled out the possibility of introducing legislation to ban smoking in the workplace but it would have to wait for the full report from the Independent Scientific Committee before any decision was made, she said.

"I think I have the right to breathe in oxygen. Smoking is a pretty disgusting habit, it is anti-social and grubby-handed. Nobody smokes anywhere near me. I have my own non smoking zone."

Asked whether she thought smoking should be an offence warranting dismissal, Mrs Currie said that should be a matter for the individual employer.

"However, I would rather someone did something because they believed in it rather than because they were forced to."

The booklet urges employers to introduce policies to limit or ban smoking before they face legal action. Miss Howard emphasized that those would have to be introduced with the full co-operation of the employees and should be drawn up with unions when possible.

Employers would have to explain why the new rule was being introduced and from when it would operate. New staff should be informed of the policy when applying for posts and alternative arrangements should be offered either to set up a smoking zone or to allow staff to go outside to smoke.

As the policy would be introduced into employment contracts, people could be dismissed, following the normal disciplinary procedures, if they smoked in non-smoking areas, Miss Howard said.

Smoking policies at work (Health Education Authority, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1: 2S).

## Vivien Leigh as captured by McBean



Mr Angus McBean, the photographer, with one of the photographs he took of Vivien Leigh, the actress, in an association that lasted 30 years. The portraits are being shown together for the first time in an exhibition at the Festival Hall in London. After their first meeting Mr McBean photographed Miss Leigh for almost every performance on stage and in the studio until her death in 1967. The exhibition includes the portrait Miss Leigh sent to Hollywood, which led to her role in *Gone With the Wind*. The exhibition runs until August 23. (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

## Boy aged five suffocated by instant glue

Karl Cox, aged five, suffocated to death after playing with a tube of instant glue at his home on July 11, an inquest was told yesterday.

The glue was so powerful that one of his fingers became stuck in his nostril, while the other was blocked with glue.

Mr Sarah Cox, the child's mother, of Falkland Road, Wallasey, Merseyside had bought the glue to mend a pair of earrings.

Mr Christopher Johnson, deputy coroner of Merseyside, recorded a verdict of accidental death. He urged parents to keep all glues under lock and key and appealed to manufacturers to make glue less attractive to children.

## Solicitor weeps over tape

By Ian Smith

The solicitor who shot dead his French-born mistress in what he claims was a suicide pact wept yesterday as a tape recording of him describing their love was played over the loudspeakers in court.

Ian Wood had made the tape while on the run from the police and sent it to the Sheffield coroner, with a request that it should be played to the dead woman's son aged five to explain that her killing was motivated by love.

The jury at Sheffield Crown Court heard Wood's voice, adapting a quotation from Oscar Wilde, say: "She made me see what life is, what death signifies and why love is stronger than both."

"She was my wife, my lover, my friend, my all. She gave herself so completely, she was and always will be my love."

"We agreed what to do and I did it. It was the most appalling thing and has haunted me ever since. The fact I am now in a position where I can die is the greatest thing for me."

"My fear now is that God will not let me be with the woman I love. My trust dictates I must now try and die with her. There is the ultimate irony... the beautiful and lovely are dead."

Wood admits murdering Danielle Lloyd's daughter Stephanie, aged two, and attempting to murder her son Christopher, but denies murdering their mother, aged 38. Instead he has entered a plea

of manslaughter.

Wood also pleads guilty to stealing £84,000 from clients, although the prosecution alleges that he misappropriated more than £150,000.

The tape recording said that the trust was made by Wood and Mrs Lloyd because they had reached an impasse caused by the hatred shown by her husband, the deputy headmaster of a secondary school who had walked out on her second marriage.

Mrs Lloyd was a very courageous woman who was frightened of her husband's violence. On one occasion he had smashed through a glass door when refused admittance to the home she and her children shared with Wood. The case continues today.

## Portfolio - Gold -

### Cottage to get a new driveway

A former chiropodist, a law lecturer and a quantity surveyor share the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £4,000.

Mrs Joan Wilson, a former chiropodist, of Bognor, Bognor, near Glasgow, said the prize money would be spent on laying a new drive at her home.

She said: "I have three grown-up children and we intend to spend the windfall on having a new driveway to our cottage."

Mr Robin Crockett, aged 47, of Beachy Head Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, said the money would come in useful as he was moving house and planning a holiday. Mr Crockett, a law lecturer at Kingston Polytechnic, south-east London, also had the birthdays of his two children coming soon.

The other winner is Mr John Gearing, aged 67, a quantity surveyor, of Park Road, Chiswick, west London, who said the money would go towards a luxury or two for his wife and himself.

Readers may obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,  
The Times,  
Blackburn,  
BB1 6AJ.

## Royal jewels star in King's Lynn festival

Priceless jewels belonging to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother go on show to the public for the first time today as part of an exhibition of Cartier work in the King's Lynn Festival, in Norfolk.

A round the clock guard is being mounted by police and private security men over the five pieces - a necklace, two bracelets and two brooches, all dating from the 1930s. They have been lent by the Queen Mother in her position as the festival patron and one of its founders.

She will be staying at Sandringham House to be near the festival, which she has not missed since it started 37 years ago.

# Was Archer in need of 'cold, unloving, rubber-insulated sex'?

Continued from page 1  
suing for damages against *The Star* and its editor, Mr Lloyd Turner, for publishing the allegation in an article last November.

Mr Justice Caulfield told the jury: "There is, of course, no accounting for the tastes of even happily-married men, and the fact that you would not expect a person in the category of Jeffrey Archer to go shopping in Shepherd Market at a quarter past twelve one early Tuesday morning does not mean it is not possible."

"It is possible even for the most happy and successful and respected married man to seek adventure in physical contact with persons who will not tell. But reflect upon the probability or improbability of the version put forward in the defence of the newspaper."

"If Jeffrey Archer was in need of physical adventure with a prostitute, his need

would not know, would he, their destination?"

"It could have been the Sheraton Hotel, it could have been her companion's flat, it could have been anywhere."

"And yet this man waits patiently, not knowing whether his predecessor in title to the prostitute was going to take 10 minutes, half an hour or even the longer session which, for extra payment, Coghlan sometimes had."

"You are entitled to consider whether such a story is probable," he told the jury. "You have to consider, bearing in mind the attributes and past attributes of Jeffrey Archer, whether his taste is such that he can take his place in a virtually a queue for the services which 'Debbie' had to offer. And he would have seen, too, the customer who was ahead of him."

Mr Justice Caulfield told the jury there was a special need for caution when considering evidence about identification, because even the most honest and convincing witness could be mistaken.

"You should examine closely the circumstances in which identification by Aziz Kurtha and Monica Coghlan came to be made."

"How long did Aziz Kurtha have in his sight the man he says is Jeffrey Archer? At what distance, in what light, had Aziz Kurtha ever seen Jeffrey Archer before that night, if he did see him?"

"Was there any material discrepancy in the description he gave, after the event, of what he says he saw?"

"Plainly," the judge said, "you will be more cautious if you have any suspicions of the honesty of the witness making the identification, and you may be even more cautious if you feel that there is a money motive in the identification."

Their verdict had to be unanimous, unless he told them to the contrary.

Of the evidence given by Mr Kurtha, he said: "You may think that Aziz Kurtha is the foundation of the case against Jeffrey Archer."

Mr Kurtha was a television presenter who, the judge reminded the jury, said he was partially colour blind.

"You are dealing with the identification of a car outside the hotel and the fellow identifying Mr Archer thinks of three colours he can't recognize - red, green or brown - and says that the car was one of those colours," the judge said.

"He does not say he can't recognize dark grey - and the girl at the centre of the

Archer's car was dark grey - and yet he says it was either red, green or brown."

In an article he wrote for the magazine *Private Eye* eight or nine hours after the alleged incident, Mr Kurtha said the car he saw was green.

"Is there a discrepancy between his evidence and what he wrote in the article, and is he being really cute in his evidence when he says the car was one of three colours?" Is Mr Kurtha colour blind? Is he giving himself three choices, thinking in his mind: 'I will be faced with what I've written in that article and I've described the colour as green.'"

"Because if there was a car outside the Albion and if it

was green, then where is the case on identification against Mr Archer?"

He added: "You might think I've spent a lot of time on the question of colour but as I warned you earlier, powers of perception are engaged in identification cases."

The judge said that the trial did not depend entirely on identification evidence. But the foundation of the rumour could only be based on what Mr Kurtha wrote for *Private Eye*.

In Mr Kurtha's favour was the fact that he was a successful and professional man, apparently with good business contacts who, as a solicitor, must know the importance of the oath.

"He knows the damage that has been done by the article, and he is more than displeased with the way he was treated by the *News of the World*."

"You might think he has a foundation for his story. Then ask yourself whether it is a good foundation."

Of Miss Coghlan's evidence that the November 1 article about her in *The Star* was mostly "fantasy", the judge told the jury: "You may think that rather astonishing."

"The importance of it is that you haven't had a word of evidence from *The Star* as to how they came to write the article, as to who wrote it, as to from what sources they created the story, and 'Debbie' herself says she was not consulted."

"As big a libel action as has ever been tried in this country, and the girl at the centre of the

article is saying this article is sheer fantasy."

"She is saying that *The Star* newspaper never checked a word with her and, as regards the person who in the article is alleged to have given the information, her nephew, he is a compulsive liar."

"You may think *The Star* is fighting this libel action on the evidence that was available to the *News of the World*, and its (*The Star*) editor has not faced Mr Alexander (Mr Archer's counsel) on any single word of the article."

"The editor has been in court throughout the trial. How remarkable that is, you will work out for yourselves."

The judge reminded the jury that Monica Coghlan had been receiving social security during part of the time she was a prostitute, of which a certain portion had been repaid.

"Mr Alexander," he said, "made the point that, because she did that, she is accordingly discredited and you should not accept her."

"You may think that's a bad point because you may think that every prostitute in the land does not tell her accountant to report the business she has done on the streets."

"In their state of mind, they may not view the idea of dishonesty as seriously as you do."

"But if it is of any value, she was taking social security while earning perhaps £800 to £900 a week after expenses."

As "men and women of the world", he told the jury, they would realize that a prostitute who disclosed the names of

her clients would soon find herself in difficulty. Such a prostitute might even be expelled from the "prostitute's union."

A girl or woman who disclosed a client would be in difficulty, particularly if she demanded money, because of the law of blackmail, which was a "very, very severe offence."

"But Debbie has disclosed a name. That name is Archer."

"Now why has she done that? Why does she choose to disclose Archer?" Mr Justice Caulfield asked the jury.

Reviewing the evidence given by Mr John Lisners, a *News of the World* reporter, the judge reminded the jury that Mr Lisners pretended he was a former client of Monica, and a friend of someone famous who was a client of hers.

Mr Lisners produced a photo of "that friend" (a photo of Jeffrey Archer) and asked her if that was the man, and she replied: "That's him."

"I won't make any adverse comment - you may not think it's necessary - but is there anything added to the evidence on identification with evidence of that sort?"

"In any case, is it a legitimate tactic, even for the *News of the World*?"

"John Lisners calls it a subterfuge and says he is backed by the Press Council."

"Don't be bothered about whether he is backed by the Press Council - it is not a body that passes any laws. It's what you think, as a jury."

Of the evidence given by Mr

David Montgomery, former editor of the *News of the World*, and other journalists, the judge asked the jury if they did not "find it odd" that none of them had produced a note of what they said they had been told by Mr Archer.

"This may be considered, by you, adverse comment. On the other hand, you might say it doesn't matter, they seemed to be perfectly good witnesses, perfectly honest witnesses."

It might have been very helpful, said the judge, if there had been a note of the three

telephone conversations Mr Montgomery said he had with Mr Archer before the 1986 Tory Party Conference.

Mr Montgomery, he said, was proud of the *News of the World*, and did not accept that it specialized in scandal.

He asserted, said the judge, that the *News of the World* had done great good in certain cases in exposing criminals.

It was a matter for the jury. If they were "devoted" to the *News of the World*, he hoped that they would not permit their devotion to hinder their assessment of this sort of journalism.

The *News of the World*, he suggested, had "stripped the truth to tease the public."

"Suppose," he said, "you wrote an article for publication concerning the taping of a conversation. How would you give a factual account?"

"Well, the factual account you would give wouldn't tell a single newspaper because it might run as follows: 'some weeks ago we learned from a source which we will not name, but which is impeccable, of a meeting between Jeffrey Archer and the vice-girl and we decided to pursue this particular feature.'"

"But we were not very happy about the source of our information and this article is not written on any matter from that source. But we did arrange to meet a prostitute, pretending that our reporter is a friend of Jeffrey Archer."

"Well, of course, he wasn't. He also posed as a client of a prostitute so he telephoned her in disguise and when he arrived he didn't say he was a *News of the World* journalist. He merely said: 'Hello Debbie.'"

"Our reporter went into the bedroom with the prostitute, gave her a certain amount of money, £50-£70, but didn't have intercourse with her. But what he said to her was: 'I'm a friend of a famous man who has been a customer of yours.'"

"Oh yes," said the prostitute, "I did have somebody famous a week ago," so our reporter took out of his pocket a photo of Jeffrey Archer and said to her: "This is my friend, and lo and behold she said, 'That's him.'"

"Of course, that's great news for us and we pursued the matter further and we arranged to protect the prostitute from September 13 until

the publication of this article, including, to keep her away from the *Daily Mirror* and other papers, a week in Tunisia. Also arranged for her to go to her relatives so nobody else could get that exclusive story."

"And, thereafter, we arranged for the prostitute to tell lies to Archer on the phone. On the first call Archer was denying he knew the girl at all and saying you have made a mistake, you should go to the police. But she told a tale of woe and didn't disclose Aziz Kurtha's name or that she was working for us and eventually Jeffrey Archer arranged to see her, money where we were waiting for him to watch the handover."

The judge said the jury would have to resolve the conflict between Mr Archer's assertion that he had never met Monica Coghlan and the evidence of Mr Adam Raphael, now co-presenter of *Newsnight* on BBC television, who, the judge said, was "certainly a thorn in the flesh of Archer."

Mr Raphael had told the jury that Mr Archer admitted on the telephone on the eve of the initial publication of the allegations in the *News of the World*, that he had met her.

The jury is expected to return to consider its verdict this morning.

## There was a special need for caution when considering evidence of identification

## Prostitute used guile and cunning, says judge

Miss Monica Coghlan, the prostitute at the centre of the case, used "guile and cunning" during her taped telephone conversations with Mr Jeffrey Archer, Mr Justice Caulfield told the jury.

He warned them not to base their judgement of Miss Coghlan on the pity they undoubtedly felt for her and said that they had to decide whether she was "a sincere woman" or was "in the clutches of the *News of the World*."

"Whatever money she has made since she became a prostitute in the well-known Moss Side area of Manchester, graduating to the more elite Shepherd Market, Mayfair, she obviously has had a miserable life," he said.

He reminded the jury that, during cross-examination, Miss Coghlan "wept and wept and she wept" and

"hurt accusations at the man who denied he had been with her. Mr Archer, and she screamed at him and she screamed at his counsel, Mr Alexander."

He told the jury not to condemn her because she broke down in the witness box.

But he added: "You may have to consider whether this woman was in the clutches of the *News of the World*, and remains in their clutches, and whether she continued with this deception at the behest of people you have never seen."

Those people, he said, included Mr Eddie Jones, Miss Jo Fletcher and Mr Jerry Brown, all *News of the World* reporters who took part in the investigation of her allegations about her encounter with Mr Archer.

The judge said that one of the "big worries" in the case was whether the *News of the*

*World* was her protector and was seeking to preserve her for the purposes of its article.

The jury might conclude that if it was the *News of the World* that had persuaded Miss Coghlan to proceed with the allegations against Mr Archer on "flimsy grounds", then it had caused the tears.

"You do know that in the taped conversations with Mr Archer, she showed guile and cunning, you may think quite clever cunning."

Mr Archer was probably not unresilient and yet "she seems to have worked on him with tremendous success."

"But was it Miss Coghlan doing the work or was it those people who were so-called protecting her, who were feeding her from time to time with £500 cash?"

He suggested that the jury should consider the "fantasizing and titillating" photographs Miss Coghlan had taken of herself for the *News of the World's* follow-up article.

The jury might feel sympathy for a woman "who is not particular about what she does", who is attracted to prostitution by the chance to make £350 a night. "But there's no doubt that Miss Coghlan is a common prostitute, and has been since the age of 18, long before her son was born," he said.

There need be no doubt that the motherly love of a prostitute can be as strong as that of the "purest woman who ever bore a child". But motherly love for Robin (her son) "was not necessarily a criterion for honesty and integrity."

The jury might wish to consider the fact that Miss Coghlan had been following that "horrible trade" for 12

years before Robin was born when, looking at her evidence, it might appear that she was a prostitute "because she loved her child".

"Miss Coghlan is an important witness in this case: important because she says she lay on top of Archer for 10 minutes, important because she made the telephone calls and important because, ultimately, in her green leatherette suit, she received a wad of £50 notes an inch and a half thick," he said.

The judge then drew a quick pen portrait of Miss Coghlan. She was a Lancashire girl who had lived in Manchester for five years until 1973.

She then started travelling down to London where Shepherd Market became "her beat" for a "miserable three or four hours a night", and where she could "shrink into alleyways to avoid being arrested".



July 23 1987

# PARLIAMENT

## Nuclear pact caution demand

Any agreement on intermediate nuclear weapons must be thoroughly verifiable, Mrs Thatcher said during a question time when asked to comment on the latest Soviet offer in the Geneva talks.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith (Wealden, C) asked for an assurance that any agreement on intermediate nuclear weapons must not only be properly verifiable, but also ensure that Nato could deter aggression, at whatever level.

Mrs Thatcher: We agree wholeheartedly that any agreement on intermediate nuclear weapons must be thoroughly verifiable. It would have to be verifiable, and we would also have to look at it in the context of other weapons, including chemical weapons.

Mr Winston Churchill (Dartford, C): Mr Gorbachev's acceptance of the zero option in respect of short-range missiles is welcome and is almost entirely due to her determination - (loud laughter) - and steadfastness and that of her ally, President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher: It is reported that the Soviet Union is about to accept the global zero option for intermediate nuclear weapons. Those proposals will be tabled in Geneva in the near future, we expect. We do not know until then whether there are conditions or not. If it is without conditions, we warmly welcome it.

## Assurance on Ulster power

Mr Jim Marshall, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, sought an assurance during questions in the Commons that the province would not be used as a dry test run of the privatisation of electricity supply industry throughout Great Britain.

Mr Peter Viggers, an Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office: That thinking does not permeate our minds at all.

Earlier, he said that the aim was to reduce the province's over-dependence on oil-fired generating capacity and to promote efficiency in electricity generation and supply.

## Call for rail statement

An article in *The Guardian* had alleged that secret negotiations were taking place between the Government and a private consortium about the privatisation of the Carlisle to Settle railway line, Mr Eric Mawhood (Carlisle, Lab) said during business questions.

He called for a statement to be made on the issue by Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, and said that it would be involved in such negotiations at a time when he was deliberating on whether British Rail's application to close the line should be agreed to.

## Question on House recall

The House should be recalled for an emergency debate during the summer recess, there was an escalation in the crisis in the Gulf or any involvement of British warships in hostilities, Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thames Valley, C) said during business questions in the Commons.

Mr John Wakeham, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, replied: I can certainly give the assurance that if the circumstances arise, the House would be in train to meet the necessary arrangements for the recall of the House, but that is not to say I have at this moment any plans to do so.

## Tenders are praised

The Prime Minister was urged by Mr Conrad Gregory (York, C) at question time to encourage local authorities to put their services out to competitive tender, thereby securing savings of up to 30 per cent in place of municipal socialism.

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government was bringing in legislation on the matter. It was a matter for regret that more local authorities had not taken that course of action.

## Tourist cash

Government grant in aid to encourage the Northern Ireland Tourist Board in its promotion and marketing activities has been increased in 1987-88 by 18 per cent, to £3 million, Mr Peter Viggers, an Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, said during questions in the Commons.

## Data charges

The maximum charge for subject access under the Data Protection Act will be £10, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary said in a written reply. Users would be free to make any charge falling within that maximum.

## Ridley adds five to rate-capped authorities list

Ratepayers in England living in non-rate-capped local authority areas should face rate increases next year no higher than inflation, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a Commons statement.

Those in rate-capped areas could expect lower increases or even reductions.

He announced that he was adding to the list of rate-capped authorities which would continue to have their spending controlled.

In his statement on the rate-support grant for 1987-88, Mr Ridley said that, with the passage of proposed legislation, this would be the penultimate rate-support grant settlement. By 1990 a new system, which would be both fairer and easier to understand, would take its place.

He continued: I propose to set current expenditure provision at £27,538 million. This is a cash increase of £838 million on the provision for 1986-87 and represents a 7 per cent increase on the gross amount provided for the current year.

It will allow non-rate-capped authorities to hold their spending broadly level in real terms. Rate of expenditure will be set at levels which imply real reductions in spending in most cases.

Authorities continue to spend more than I believe they need to, I therefore propose to maintain a margin between the total of grant-related expenditure (GRE) and expenditure provision.

Authorities owe it to their ratepayers - and prospective community charge payers - to do all they can to keep spending down. The measures now before the House in the Local Government Bill will make a big contribution.

## Some tax offices to move

A number of tax offices dealing with some of the largest commercial and industrial companies are to be moved from London in a move to stem resignations among tax inspectors unwilling to move to the capital.

Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written Commons reply that they had considered proposals to reduce the number of resignations by inspectors of taxes. One big reason that had been identified was the generally unwelcome nature of a transfer to London.

"The Inland Revenue has therefore decided to move from London to a number of cities elsewhere, over the period 1987-1991, 21 tax districts dealing with some of the largest commercial and industrial concerns; some head office sections responsible for training and technical, and investigation work."

These were realistic proposals and Welsh local authorities knew that if they worked within the Government's expenditure plans their ratepayers would benefit from the extra resources provided. Average rate rises next year should be very low, Mr Alan Williams, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, said.

## New demand to update Labour Party policies

A senior ally of Mr Neil Kinnock on Labour's national executive yesterday backed his call for a swift re-examination of party policies.

Mr Tom Sawyer, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees and chairman of Labour's home policy committee, said that Labour had to appeal to the "home-owning, credit card-carrying majority".

In a Fabian Society pamphlet he said that Labour had to develop policies that would be more attractive to those people who had become more prosperous since the Tories came to power.

## Rate proposals for Scotland and Wales defended by Government

In his statement on the Welsh rate-support grant settlement for 1988-89, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, said that the provision for relevant current expenditure would be set at £1,640 million (7.4 per cent up on the previous year); total relevant expenditure for RSG purposes was estimated to be £1,386 million (6.9 per cent up); and aggregate Exchequer grant in support of relevant expenditure would be £1,256 million (7 per cent up).

He proposed to leave the basic grant distribution mechanisms unaltered, at least until the autumn.

## Rate proposals for Scotland and Wales defended by Government

Wales needed a champion and a fighter in the Cabinet. Instead it had a Secretary of State who was strong on charm but disastrously and pathetically weak on performance, Mr Walker described Mr Williams' remarks as a third-rate statement from a man who was third choice as shadow Welsh secretary. Anyone taking a sensible and objective approach would recognise that this was a sound and sensible settlement.

In his statement of the Scottish rate-support grant, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said that he hoped to set the provision for local authority current expenditure at £3.6 billion.

That included provision for costs which local authorities would incur in preparing for the introduction of the community charge.

power, which has risen by about 1/2 per cent over the past year.

I propose to provide authorities with £13,775 billion in aggregate Exchequer grant. This is a cash increase over 1987-88 of £750 million or 5.4 per cent. It will maintain the grant percentage at the same level as this year after taking account of the additional grant we made available for teachers' pay; 46.2 per cent of relevant expenditure.

I do not propose any major changes in the mechanisms for grant distribution and, as this year, authorities spending-up will lose grant.

I believe these proposals provide a fair framework in which authorities can operate next year. It will mean that if they do not spend more than the realistic provision that we have proposed, then the average increase in rate bills for non-rate-capped authorities should be around the rate of inflation, though as always there will inevitably be considerable variations around that average.

Ratepayers in rate-capped authorities can expect lower increases or, indeed, reductions. For the position of individual authorities, MPs will need to wait until the announcement of my detailed proposals in the autumn. But I emphasize that actual rate bills will depend on the spending decisions of each individual authority.

I am today laying before the House a report setting out how authorities will be selected for rate limitation next year. I am selecting authorities not selected in 1987-88 whose budgets are at least 12.5 per cent above GRE. Those authorities not selected in 1987-88 whose budgets are at least 12.5 per cent above GRE.

On these criteria, five authorities not selected in 1987-88 - Ealing, Kingston-upon-Hull, Liverpool, Manchester and Waltham Forest - are selected. Twelve authorities are re-selected - Basildon, Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Lambeth, Lewisham, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Southwark, Thamesdown and Tower Hamlets.

## Rate proposals for Scotland and Wales defended by Government

How could Mr Ridley pretend that local authorities could maintain expenditure in real terms when there was a larger shortfall in the cash he was making available?

This week, the school inspectors (HMI) had made clear in their report that one in five of classes in schools were working in such awful conditions that it

was having an adverse effect on the quality of work that children and teachers were able to produce.

"Does this statement imply further cuts in education budgets at a time when most people recognized that we should be increasing expenditure? How does the Secretary of State square that and his penalties on authorities which he claims overspend, when Mr Kenneth Baker boasts about increasing expenditure in education in some authorities?"

Although the Opposition did not accept the principle, it recognized the Government's determination to press ahead with rate limitation.

But why had the Secretary of State decided not to have any discussion on the basis of partial re-determination.

## Rate proposals for Scotland and Wales defended by Government

Did this inadequate settlement mean that the poorest people in Britain, who from April next year would for the first time under the social security regulations have to pay 20 per cent of their rate bill, would now face bigger charges.

Since the Secretary of State said this already unfair system would be replaced by a flat-rate poll tax, how did he square his claims for fairness for a poll tax with the Prime Minister's statement some time ago that any system which replaced rates should be based on people's ability to pay.

Mr Ridley replied that it was not a reduction in grant which the Government was putting forward.

## Rate proposals for Scotland and Wales defended by Government

The Government made provision which was 7.5 per cent greater than the provision for this year and more than 5.75 per cent greater than the grant for this year when inflation between the two years was expected to be 4 per cent. So both the provision and the grant were greater than the rate of inflation.

One looks back to the treaty. There was nothing wrong with the policy. It is the way it has been operated and that we wish to cure.

Mr Robert Crier (Bradford South, Lab): The CAP is a disaster.

## Rate proposals for Scotland and Wales defended by Government

While she makes a great pretence of being concerned about the whole matter of budgetary control, the farm agreement will cost this country £600 million and, next year, many more millions.

Since we have such a huge balance of trade deficit in many manufactured goods, will she explain clearly and succinctly what are the benefits from the Common Market?

Mrs Thatcher: No. Originally we went in - and it was agreed on both sides - it was political - that we should be part of the European Community.

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Mr Teddy Taylor: The main beneficiaries of EEC food dumping are Russia and the Mafia.

including many Tory-controlled councils, seeking simply to maintain existing levels of expenditure and services, would be penalized and would forfeit grant.

Had not some police authorities and chief constables, like Mr James Anderson, made clear that they could not meet the requirements of proper policing. How would they be able to do that and find the money for the latest police pay award with this settlement?

Although the Opposition did not accept the principle, it recognized the Government's determination to press ahead with rate limitation.

But why had the Secretary of State decided not to have any discussion on the basis of partial re-determination.

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## 'Policy good, methods bad'

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister told critics of the common agricultural policy during Commons questions that there might have to be a degree of national financing of agricultural policy, but it would have to be within a Community framework.

She insisted that there was nothing wrong with the policy, but that there was with the way in which it had been operated.

Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) had asked the Prime Minister to invite the European Council to secure a report from the Commission on the operation and effectiveness of the strict budgetary controls agreed by the Council on December 4, 1984, before the Council further considered the Commission's proposals for extra funding linked to strict budgetary controls.

Mrs Thatcher: The Commission reported on budget discipline in its two February papers on future financing.

In the light of discussion at the June European Council, they have undertaken to bring forward further proposals shortly. I made clear that, before the question of increasing Community resources can be addressed, we must agree on effective and binding controls.

Mr Taylor: When asked to produce effective and binding controls, the Commission produced, instead of restraint, an accounting basis of which Liverpool councillors would be ashamed.

There is an escalation in the cost of food-dumping and food destruction, which costs £240 million a week, of which the Soviet Union and the Mafia are the major beneficiaries.

He asked her to stand firm in December and, instead of giving more money to the uncontrollable CAP, propose returning agricultural responsibility to the member states.

Mrs Thatcher: I have some degree of sympathy with his point, as one usually has. He is right that we did not get a binding arrangement for financial discipline on the last occasion, but must have it on this occasion.

I do not think we can abolish the CAP. There may have to be a degree of national financing, but I think it will have to be within the Community framework.

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## Growing number of police 'used as stopgap jailers'

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Gerald Bermingham, Labour MP for St Helens South and a practising criminal lawyer.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Bermingham dismissed the package, which includes increased remissions of sentences and the opening of a prison of a camp in Wiltshire, as a "palliative" that would have no impact on the underlying problem.

Today, in an adjournment debate he will press for a royal commission to investigate sentencing policy, the aims of imprisonment and the "appalling" conditions that now apply in jails where inmates are crammed four to a cell, locked up for 23 hours a day and supplied with the most primitive forms of sanitation.

Mr Bermingham said that prison conditions were now worse than in the later-Victorian period and, political considerations apart, were on a par with those in the Soviet Union.

## Growing number of police 'used as stopgap jailers'

Law enforcement and the processes of justice were all suffering because the courts, fearful of a populist outcry about soft sentencing, were failing to consider alternatives to imprisonment for petty thieves, burglars and fine defaulters.

Meanwhile, reports were being delayed and some people were being remanded in custody for up to a year before their cases came to court.

Mr Bermingham told *The Times*: "We have reached the stage where prison officers are nothing more than jailers, where any thoughts of rehabilitation are memories."

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## Call for changes in export services

By Our Political Reporter

The Commons Public Accounts committee called yesterday for a "fundamental reappraisal" of the Government's export promotion services.

It said in a report that the Government should not shy away from radical options such as employing private businessmen to act as its agents abroad or financing improved services through

charging the companies that use them.

At present, services to British exporters are offered jointly by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Foreign Office, but the all-party committee found flaws in the system.

Government policy was to concentrate help on smaller firms, but the Foreign Office tended to help the largest. The Foreign Office sought oppor-

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'Policy good, methods bad'  
PRIME MINISTER

## Lawyers split over drive to streamline court system

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A fundamental split between the two branches of the legal profession emerged yesterday when the Law Society council (representing solicitors) came out overwhelmingly in favour of radical proposals for a new single civil court system.

The proposals, floated by the Lord Chancellor's Department as part of the review of civil justice, are arousing strong opposition from the judges.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said this week that the proposals would "emasculate the system" and that the remedy to delays was to provide more courtrooms and more judges.

Yesterday the Law Society, which represents 45,000 solicitors in England and Wales, said the time was ripe for merging the High Court and county court into a single civil court as a means of tackling the "inefficiencies" of the present system. Such streamlining would enable simple disputes to be dealt with by circuit rather than High Court judges.

The society's view, outlined in a paper which the council agreed yesterday would go to the Lord Chancellor, looks certain to generate a fierce debate between the profession's two branches.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, has criticized the proposed reforms, which also envisage longer working days for judges. High Court judges residing on circuit and the abolition of the long summer vacation. Judges are already overworked and could not work longer hours than they do already, he has said.

The Court of Appeal judges and one or two law lords are believed to have submitted a

paper strongly opposed to the single civil court proposal.

The High Court judges have asked for more time to consider their response but are also opposed and the Bar has yet to publish its response but is also believed to be against the one-court proposal.

The Law Society paper said: "An inefficient system means a slow system, slowness means delay and delay is the enemy not only of justice but also of the legal profession, which has to take the blame for the law's delays".

The new single court in the proposals, to be called the district court, would have three tiers of judges, to whom cases would be referred not just on the basis of how much money was involved but also taking into account factors such as complexity and public interest.

High Court judges would still deal with the most complex matters such as medical negligence and judicial review proceedings. But many simpler matters such as small contract disputes, consumer, housing or personal injury cases, could go either to circuit judges or to registrars and masters.

At present claims involving up to £5,000 go to the county court and others to the High Court. "The present rigid division between the two systems... is not in the public's interest".

A second much more modest proposal from the Lord Chancellor's Department to integrate the two legal systems more closely would just be making "piecemeal changes" which do not reflect the "fundamental changes of the last 100 years", the society says.

## 'Hacking should be a crime'

Obtaining unauthorized access to a program or data in a computer should be punishable by up to five years' imprisonment, the Scottish Law Commission says.

"Hackers" use public telephone lines and link their computers with chosen targets, it says in a report on computer crime.

"If they can discover, or guess, the passwords used to control access, they may then be able to display on their own computers data stored in the target computer, and alter or erase that data at will".

The commission also thought that someone with a television screen and relatively inexpensive electronic equipment who picked up signals radiated by a computer or word processor near by, should be considered as a hacker.

Report on Computer Crime (Scott Law Com No 106, HM Stationery Office, £5.)

## Persistent rapist gets life jail

A persistent rapist was jailed for life yesterday for repeatedly raping a mother at knifepoint.

It was the third time Kenneth Seaman had been jailed for rape and he committed the last offence two months after being released from a 10-year jail sentence.

Mr Justice Kennedy, who heard the case at Teesside Crown Court where he was convicted last month, yesterday passed sentence at the High Court in London.

He told Seaman, aged 32, of Middlesbrough, Teesside, that he was "clearly likely to be a danger to women".

His history of rape began in 1973 when he was jailed for three years for raping two teenage girls. Then, in 1980, came the 10-year sentence for raping another teenager. He was released in August last year and committed his latest rape in October.

## Weekend food prices

### Plaice is the best fresh fish catch

Most fresh fish prices have risen this week, including cod and codling which are up about 6p a pound and haddock and coley are up about 3p a pound. Plaice, probably the best buy nationally, is down 3p a pound to an average £2.08. Dover sole is up about 9p a pound to an average £4.05 but the range is wide from £1.95 to £6.00 depending on where you buy.

A visit to a trout farm will provide really fresh fish plus information on how they are bred and reared. The farms also sell smoked trout and pates. Whole fresh trout costs from £1.40 to £1.55 a pound and smoked trout £2.45 to £2.80 according to size.

Presto still has whole fresh salmon on promotion at £2.75 a pound.

Meat prices are mostly stable with the exception of lamb which is down 3p to 7p a pound on all cuts. The average price of whole leg is £1.75 a pound, loin chops £2.08 and whole shoulder £1.07 a pound. Many shops and supermarkets are offering lamb in their best buy category which is a rare treat.

At Tesco fresh leg of lamb is down to £1.49 a pound and lamb chops £1.79. Dewhurst has lamb chops between £1.69 and £1.79 a pound and Presto has lamb shoulder at 96p a pound and lamb leg at £1.58 a pound.

The wet weather has slightly shortened supplies of home-grown strawberries and rasp-

berries. Black, red and white currants are widely available at 60p to 85p a half pound punnet; gooseberries at 30p to 40p a pound, cherries 70p to £1.00 a pound are plentiful.

Imported fruit offers many good buys this week including honeydew and gala melons from 50p each. Peaches between 10p and 20p each, nectarines 12p to 25p each, bananas 34p to 54p a pound and pineapples from 70p to £1.80 each according to size.

Potato prices have crept up. Homegrown baking potatoes are 30p to 35p a pound, Cyprus large 20p to 25p a pound and Cyprus small 22p to 30p a pound.

New season English potatoes are the cheapest at 12p to 15p a pound. English cauliflower 30p to 35p each, courgettes 25p to 55p a pound, Hipsi cabbage and peas 25p to 40p a pound are the star buys.

Salads are plentiful and cheap with round lettuce 30p to 28p a head, iceberg 50p to 80p a head, tomatoes 35p to 55p a pound, cucumbers 30p to 50p each and homegrown celery 20p to 45p a head. All are available homegrown.

Meat and poultry on promotion include Tesco fresh duck 84p a pound and cured silverside £1.89 a pound. Presto pork Supremes £1.99 a pound, Sainsbury's beef topside £1.86 a pound, Asda fresh chicken 69p a pound and frozen unbasted turkey 7lb to 7lb 15ozs £3.99 each.

## East meets West at St Paul's



The Hong Kong Children's Choir and its conductor, Mr Tong Shiu-Wai, rehearsing on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral in London yesterday. The choir, which won a folk music prize at the International Music Festival in Cantonigros, Spain, last year, is taking part in a Chinese event at Osterley Park, west London, and appearing at this year's Aberdeen International Youth Festival. The young people, aged between 10 and 16, sang a programme of old and modern Chinese folk songs and English choral music during a lunchtime recital at St Paul's yesterday. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

## TUC wants more controls over nuclear plants

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The TUC wants a more rigorous system of international control over nuclear installations and says that all nuclear materials, whether civil or military, in all countries should be brought under more effective safeguards.

In a report to congress in September, the TUC's 19-strong review body, set up to look into the future of nuclear energy, will put forward 20 main recommendations and ask for another 12 months to complete its work.

The body publishes its first full report today and puts forward a long list of suggestions, including a moratorium on new nuclear installations; the acceleration of coal-fired power station building; opposition to electricity privatization; more nuclear inspectors; the reduction of radioactive discharges; and the suspension of all transport of plutonium by air.

The review body was set up after last year's TUC Congress and the Chernobyl accident. Members of the body visited Chernobyl and Sweden and plan to go to France and the United States.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the chairman, said there was still much to be done, particularly on the

questions of waste disposal and reprocessing, transporting nuclear materials, the decommissioning of power stations and international problems. Sweden was pledged to phase out nuclear power by the year 2010 but its neighbours, Finland and the Soviet Union, had no such commitment.

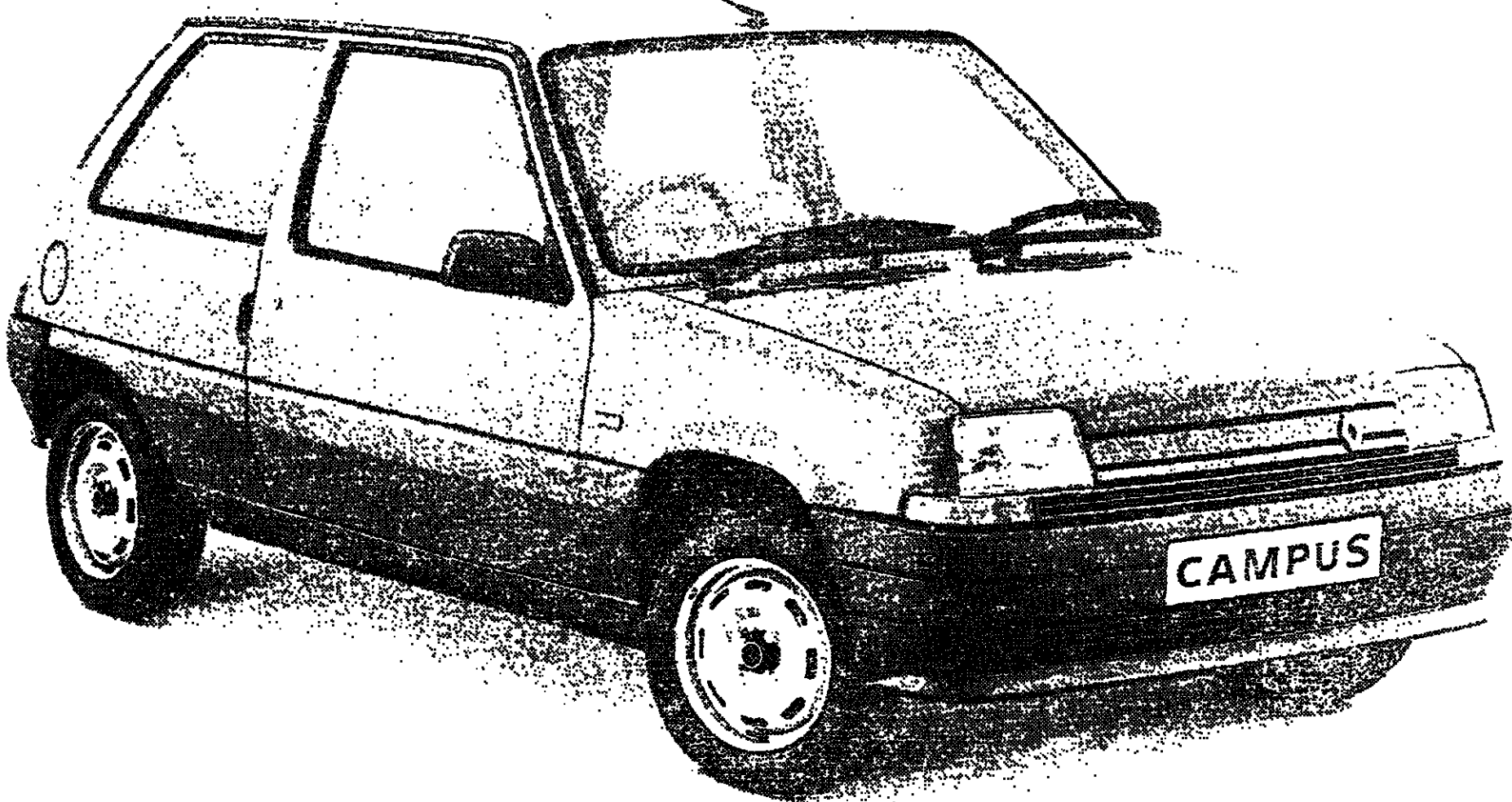
Mr Jarvis said that the British Government's record was far from satisfactory, having rejected international inspection of some Magnox stations. "We need our own programme of *glance* just as much as the people in the Ukraine", he said.

The report says that nuclear energy is not alone in posing risks. Fossil fuel emissions had been connected with acid rain and may be contributing to dangerous long-term climatic changes.

The report says that about 117,000 people are directly or indirectly employed by the nuclear industry, some in areas of high unemployment where prospects for alternative employment are grim.

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said that the report was not unanimous but there was a large measure of consensus.

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WORLD SUMMARY

# Armed guards for Israeli tennis stars

Delhi (AFP) — The Israeli Davis Cup team have all been given armed personal bodyguards, and spectators are to be frisked for guns and bombs as security forces try to forestall any Palestinian attempt to assassinate one or more of the players at the weekend.

In one of the biggest security operations yet mounted by Indian authorities, the guards, guns at the ready, yesterday ringed the Israeli tennis stars as they practised for their quarter-final tie against India.

Army bomb disposal experts with sniffer dogs have already swept the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association stadium and a dozen marksmen are manning concealed bunkers in an adjacent forest to give covering fire if necessary, the police said. Three hundred hand-picked police commandos with sub-machineguns are ringing the stadium and special high-powered searchlights have been erected to bathe the local streets and bushes in light at night.

India's intelligence service has been advised by Interpol of a possible attack by an international terrorist cell led by the Palestinian Abu Nidal, the police said.

Davis Cup preview, page 32

# UDF men Nine dead in rioting

Johannesburg — Two of the most senior members of the United Democratic Front, the largest extra-parliamentary organization in South Africa, have been detained under the State of Emergency regulations, police confirmed yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr Murphy Morobe, the acting publicity secretary, and Mr Mohammed Valli, acting general secretary, were seized at 4am in a house in Port Elizabeth. They are held under a clause which allows an initial 30 days' detention without trial.

# Cash curb dropped

Vienna — Hungary yesterday suddenly decided to suspend controversial customs measures forcing Poles to deposit Western currency on entering Hungary (Richard Bassett writes).

The measures, aimed at preventing Poles flooding the Hungarian black market with Western goods, were introduced at the beginning of this month. They required every Pole entering Hungary to deposit a third of the value of his luggage in Western currency.

# Waite 'is still alive' New blow to Gandhi

New York (Reuters) — The US Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Vernon Walters, says he believes the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Mr Terry Waite, is still alive.

Mr Walters said in a television programme that he based his assessment on information from a trip to Syria, where he met President Assad. "I asked the question specifically and the answer I got was, it is not believed that he is dead," he said. This month a Kuwaiti newspaper reported that Mr Waite had died.

# Airliners in near miss

Harare — Zambian and Zimbabwean air traffic controllers met in Lusaka this week to review their communications procedures after two crowded airliners flying at 40,000 feet over Zambia had a terrifying "near miss" last month (A Correspondent writes). The airliners came within 100ft of each other before the pilots took hasty evasive action.

The aircraft involved were a Portuguese Boeing 707 and a Boeing 747 flying from Johannesburg to Nairobi. The airline to which it belonged has not been confirmed. But British Airways is one of the carriers operating the route. The aircraft were supposed to have been handed over to Zambian controllers after passing through Zimbabwean air space, but the Zambians did not receive the message.

# Drought in Athens Missile captured

Athens — As Greece languished in temperatures of 43C (110F) for the fourth day, Athenians were urged to save water or face rationing (Mario Modiano writes). More than 12 deaths have been blamed on the heatwave, which is forecast to last at least until Sunday.

# Caesarea dig stopped

Jerusalem — An archaeological dig at Caesarea has been stopped ten days early because of protests and demonstrations by an ultra Orthodox group who claim the work was disrupting an old Jewish cemetery (Ian Murray writes). The dig began early last month at a Byzantine site on the edge of the city which was founded by Herod the Great just before the birth of Christ.

# Moscow insists on liquidation of Bonn Pershings

From Mary Dejevsky Moscow

A senior Soviet official said yesterday that the 72 nuclear warheads on West Germany's Pershing 1A missiles would have to be "liquidated" as part of any superpower agreement on eliminating medium and shorter range nuclear missiles worldwide.

Mr Yuri Vorontsov, who is the Soviet Union's First Deputy Foreign Minister with special responsibility for arms control, was addressing a press conference in Moscow the day after Mr Gorbachov had provisionally accepted the so-called "double zero" option by dropping his country's insistence on retaining 100 medium-range missiles in the Asian part of the USSR.

Mr Vorontsov said the Pershing 1As represented a real threat. Each warhead, he said, had 10 to 20 times the explosive power of the

Hiroshima bomb. Unless they were included in an agreement, there could be no talk of a "double zero". There could not be one value for the United States and another for Russia.

Mr Vorontsov was one of five speakers at the press conference. The others were: Mr Viktor Karpov, the former head of the Soviet negotiating team at Geneva and now head of the new Soviet arms control directorate at the Foreign Ministry; Mr Igor Rogachov, a Deputy Foreign Minister specializing in Asia; Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman; and Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, the Chief of Staff of the Soviet armed forces.

The presence of Marshal Akhromeyev, who appeared as always in uniform and took a prominent part in the proceedings, was probably intended to remove speculation about any split between the politicians and the military on Mr

Gorbachov's latest initiative. On previous occasions, especially when Mr Gorbachov introduced his unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, the military seemed to have misgivings.

In addition to the Pershing 1As, Marshal Akhromeyev listed three other outstanding obstacles to an agreement at Geneva. First, all warheads had not simply to be removed or transferred, they had to be "liquidated". Second, there had to be agreement on procedures leading up to the liquidation of the warheads so that neither side would be able to gain an unfair advantage. And third, there had to be strict verification. As became clear from an answer to one question, this would include Soviet access to US bases abroad.

Mr Vorontsov denied that there was any serious deadlock at Geneva. If there had been any obstruction, he said, it had come from the United States. But in general the talks at

Geneva had been a working process. That process was going slowly, but there was a real possibility of concluding a meaningful document.

Asked whether that brought a summit meeting between Mr Gorbachov and President Reagan any closer, he replied that once a document had been agreed, it could be signed at a summit.

Marshal Akhromeyev insisted that the problem with Pershing — which is now the main obstacle to agreement on global double zero — had originated with the United States because it was they who had proposed including shorter-range missiles in any agreement.

He gave no indication whether the Soviet Union would consider decoupling the two types of missile and conclude an agreement on medium-range missiles only, though from the wording of Mr Gorbachov's statement on Wednesday and the prominence given to the

Pershings yesterday, this looks unlikely.

The Soviet side has been keen to emphasize that the roots of Mr Gorbachov's concessions lay in a reassessment of Soviet policy in Asia and of the balance of forces in the Pacific. Mr Rogachov specifically denied, in response to a question from a correspondent of *L'Espresso*, that the policy change would weaken Soviet security in the Far East. He also denied that the decision had been made in response to Japan's decision to take part in the American Strategic Defence Initiative.

The decision does, however, seem to have come as a surprise to Soviet observers. Yesterday's issue of the periodical *New Times*, an official publication designed for foreign consumption, carried an article defending the Soviet Union's insistence on keeping medium-range missiles in the east of the USSR.

# Cautious welcome from White House for latest Gorbachov missile offer

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The swift White House welcome for Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's latest arms control proposals came as Washington was growing increasingly dependent about the prospects of an agreement this year and had accused Moscow of dragging its feet.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said yesterday Reagan had immediately discussed the offer with Mr Frank Carlucci, the National Security Adviser. But the Administration remained cautious, because "we have seen statements of positive Soviet response before, only to later discover unacceptable conditions". The United States looked forward to prompt official presentation of the proposals.

The news that Moscow is dropping its insistence on retaining 100 warheads in Asia, and not linking this to the removal of US seaborne missiles in the Far East, is especially welcome here as it clears up rumbling differences within the Administration over its own arms control policies.

Despite US agreement at

the Reykjavik summit on the retention of 100 medium-range warheads on either side, influential voices, including Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, thought this made a pact unworkable.

Madrid — Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, on a two-day visit to Spain, yesterday commented on Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's demand that the Pershing 1A missiles in West Germany must be included in any arms reduction agreement (Richard Wigg writes). He said he could not believe that something introduced into the negotiations "at the last moment" would hold up a whole agreement.

Mr Weinberger was supported by Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, and most of the European allies, and all but challenged President Reagan to go back on his agreement and insist on a "global zero".

Now Mr Gorbachov has removed this obstacle. But several still remain — notably Soviet insistence, emphasized

yesterday, that West Germany's 72 Pershing 1A missiles, whose warheads are under US custody, must also be eliminated.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief US negotiator at Geneva, on Tuesday also rejected the Soviet demand that the US Pershing 2 missiles to be eliminated in Europe must not be converted into shorter-range Pershing 1Bs.

He also turned aside Moscow's claim that Nato was undermining an agreement by modernizing its remaining nuclear stockpile and by linking an agreement to battlefield nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

The timing of the Soviet offer has led to speculation that Moscow was waiting to see the outcome of the Iran-Contrahearings.

Officials here say that if the Russians are serious, an agreement could now be wrapped up quickly. An important signal would be the setting of a date for a meeting between Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart.

# Nato waits for more details

From Our Correspondent, Brussels

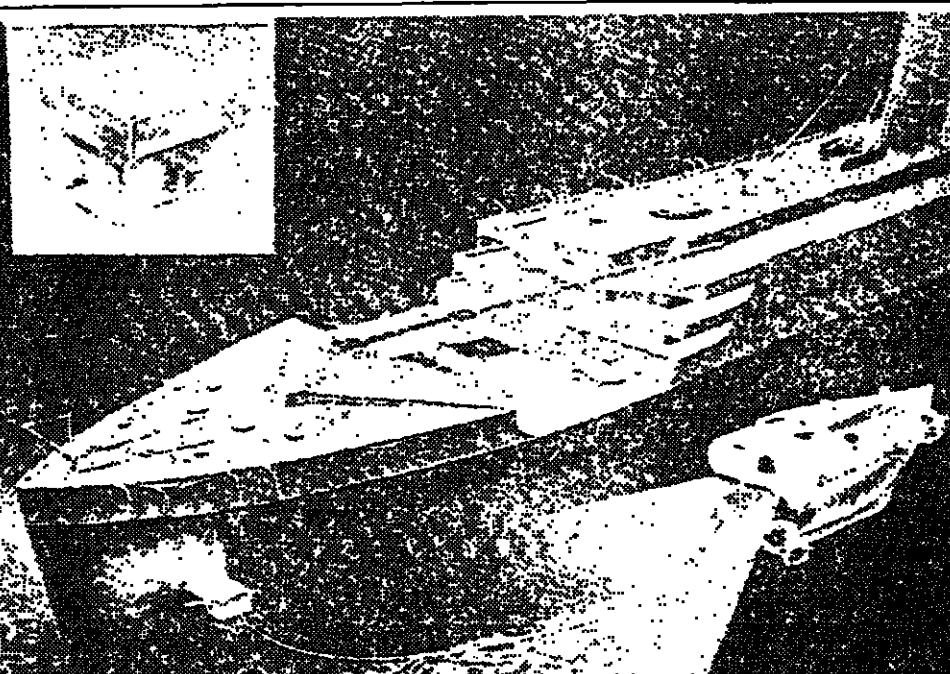
Cautious optimism is Nato's first reaction to Mr Gorbachov's announcement to agree to a global elimination of all intermediate-range nuclear forces and disperse with the 100 SS20 warheads in Soviet Asia on which he had previously insisted.

Lord Carrington, the Secretary-General, called it "very encouraging" in a BBC interview from Madrid but a Nato spokesman pointed out that the details still remained to be negotiated in Geneva.

Although the signature of such a treaty this year would be generally welcomed, unease remains about the weakening of the European nuclear deterrence posture. American officials here emphasize that there would be no reduction of the American commitment to the defence of Europe and that 4,000 nuclear weapons would still be in Nato's arsenals after the elimination of the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

armed aircraft, such as the F111s stationed in Britain, and the Tornados in Europe, as well as nuclear shells or artillery and shorter-range Lance missiles. Most of these weapons could not, according to some European officials, reach Soviet territory from West European bases.

However, the officials point out that the modernization programme includes the development of stand-off, air-delivered weapons.



An impression of how a French manned submarine would try to salvage the strongbox and valuables from the Titanic when it began diving off Newfoundland yesterday.



Mr Alexei Obukov, chief Soviet negotiator at the Geneva arms talks, speaking yesterday about his side's new offer.

# Russian optimism on early arms deal

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

"If the American side co-operates, there is the possibility of an agreement being concluded in the nearest future," Mr Alexei Obukov, the chief Soviet negotiator at the arms talks here, said yesterday — an observation he admittedly has made several times before.

He was answering reporters' questions at the Soviet diplomatic mission where he explained to the US side, headed by Mr Maynard Gilman, the finer points of Mr Gorbachov's latest proposal for a "double-zero global solution" on eliminating medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles from the superpowers' arsenals in Europe and Asia.

Mr Obukov was categorical that the desired US "co-operation" must include "liquidation of American warheads" on the 72 Pershing 1A missiles in West Germany's possession.

"We proceed," he added, "from the premise that all artificial obstacles put forward by the American side so far must now fade away, together with the US refusal, as of now, to eliminate its warheads on these missiles belonging to the Federal German Republic."

"What if they don't want to include these Pershing 1As in any deal?" he was asked. "We are here to negotiate," he said. "We count on the reciprocity of the American side in this endeavour."

Would Moscow ask the Americans for a formal commitment to freeze their nuclear forces in the Pacific? "In the Gorbachov statement, you will have noticed that the Soviet side expressed its

willingness not to build up the number of aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons in this area," he replied. "If there is no change in the strategic situation, this will mean no increase either in US nuclear forces there."

"I want to stress our conviction that the new Soviet proposal, together with our earlier initiatives, opens a real prospect for working out the draft treaty on total liquidation of medium-range and operational-tactical (shorter-range) missiles, Soviet and American," Mr Obukov said.

Doubt that these negotiations can be concluded as speedily as the Russians say they think they can has been expressed here by an experienced observer of the superpower negotiations, Mr Josef Goldblat, of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

"There's still the big problem of verification to be resolved," he said. "People would like to see these missiles destroyed. If they are merely withdrawn, the strategic and arms control impact of an agreement will be lessened."

"The negotiators still have to decide on procedures for checking that new missiles are not being produced at the same time as others are being eliminated. This is an enormous problem which may take many months to resolve."

Mr Goldblat regarded the initial Soviet decision on keeping 100 INF warheads as having been in the nature of a bargaining chip — and much the same applied to the 72 "obsolete" Pershings in West Germany.

# Pretoria denounces massacre allegations

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

Pretoria's fragile relations with Mozambique appeared to be close to collapse, yesterday after the Department of Foreign Affairs issued a fiercely-worded statement, its second in two days, denying South African involvement in the reported massacre of 380 Mozambican civilians.

President Chissano of Mozambique was quoted here yesterday as saying: "We don't think we know who did it. It was the South Africans." A report linking South Africa to the alleged massacre of the civilians last week at Homoine, 300 miles north-west of Maputo, the capital, was published yesterday in the government-controlled *Maputo* newspaper, *Noticia*.

The statement issued by Pretoria said South Africa totally rejected the report. It added: "The South African Government expresses its strenuous objection to what is obviously an officially-sanctioned statement made through the press by the Mozambican Government and published in its propaganda organizations."

"The South African Government demands of the Mozambican authorities that they be given an immediate explanation as to why they have not approached the South African Government officially through its representatives and have elected to use the media in this propaganda play."

South Africa, the statement added, "takes great exception to this deliberate attempt by the Mozambican Government to destroy the bilateral relations between South Africa and Mozambique."

The head of the South African Trade Mission in Mozambique — the highest level of official diplomatic contact between the two countries — was ordered yesterday to deliver an official note of protest to the Mozambique Government.

South Africa's angry reaction to the Mozambican claims also appeared to be designed to pre-empt reports from South African-based foreign correspondents who flew to Mozambique yesterday to try to check the accounts of the massacre on the spot.

In 1984, President Botha of South Africa and the late President Machel signed a non-aggression and economic pact at Nkomati on the border between the two countries.

Under the agreement, South Africa undertook to halt support for the Mozambican National Resistance in Mozambique in return for Maputo ceasing to aid the outlawed African National Congress. Influential militarist lobbies in South Africa, however, have long opposed the so-called Nkomati accord, although the Government denies that it continues to back the rebels.

# The Iran-Contra hearings in Washington

# Shultz says he was kept in dark over US arms deal with Tehran

A partial text of the testimony of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, to the congressional hearings in Washington yesterday.

Mr Shultz: ... The President ... right from the beginning of these events took the position that all of the facts about what transpired should be made available as quickly as possible. I supported, enthusiastically, that decision on the part of the President ... it is to his everlasting credit that he took that position and gave that instruction.

If I'm testifying before you on some other subject sometime and you try to use this as a precedent, I won't buy it.

Mr Mark Belnick (committee counsel): ... When were you first informed that the President had signed a covert action finding, authorizing the sale of US arms to Iran?

On November 10, 1986, at a meeting in the Oval Office with the President's principal advisers during a briefing by Admiral Poindexter (the former National Security Adviser) on what had transpired over the past year or so.

When were you informed that there was more than one such covert action finding signed by the President?

When I was testifying before

the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence ... I said to him (Senator Cohen, Republican, Maine): "Senator, I think you must be thinking of the January 17 finding."

You (Cohen) said: "No, January 6." ... So that's when I heard about it.

When were you informed that the President had signed also a third finding on December 5, 1985?

When it emerged in the course of these hearings.

When were you first informed that this nation had sold weapons directly to Iran?

When this all started to break in very early November 1986, there were press reports of arms sales that seemed authoritative. And so that was my information literally on an arms sale from the US to Iran.

Prior to those reports in the press, had any member of the US Government informed you that the US had sold weapons

directly from the US to Iran?

No.

When were you first informed of the McFarlane mission to Tehran?

It was after the mission, but I think shortly after it was completed.

And were you given the details of the mission at that time?

I was told that it had fizzled and that, with those events in mind, the fizzling of that initiative, that the whole project had been told to stand down.

Were you told at that time that Mr McFarlane had brought US weapons with him to Tehran?

No.

It was June 16, 1986.

When were you first informed that country number three (Taiwan) had contributed \$2 million to the Contras in 1985?

This has emerged here during the course of the hearings.

When were you first informed that country number four (China) had been solicited by the NSC (National Security Council) staff to provide lethal assistance to the Contras in 1984?

These things have all emerged during the hearings, and that's when I learned of them.

When were you first informed that US negotiations with the second channel in the early autumn of 1986 had produced agreement on a so-called nine-point agenda which provided for additional arms sales to Iran in exchange for hostages, and which con-

tained provision also with respect to actions directed at the Government of Iraq?

On December 13, 1986 ... in the course of the effort to come to grips with what was taking place, the President put the management of Iran matters into my hands by that time ... And I discovered that the CIA had a meeting scheduled with an Iranian for that date.

And we would have instructions carefully written designed to use the meeting as a means to tell that channel that there would be no more arms sales discussed in that channel or anywhere else ... At the meeting the message was delivered ... Mr Charles Dunbar (a Foreign Service officer and Farsi speaker) got a reasonable idea of what was on this agenda. And then he called back on December 13, which was a Saturday, to the State Department. And I saw it on Saturday afternoon. And

it was astonishing.

So I called the White House to get an appointment with the President. And there was a lot of back and forth — what did I want to see him about and so on. And I didn't seem to be getting an appointment right away, so I picked up the phone Sunday morning and I called the President. He happened to be in Washington. I went up to the family quarters ... and I told the President the items on this agenda, including such things as doing something about the Dawas prisoners (in Kuwait), which made me sick to my stomach that anybody would talk about that as something we would consider doing.

And the President was astonished. And I have never seen him so mad. He's a very genial, pleasant man ... he's very easy going, but his jaw set, and his eyes flashed, and both of us, I think, felt the same way about it. And I think

in that meeting, I finally felt that the President deeply understands that something is radically wrong here ...

... Let me ask you first whether you ever told Admiral Poindexter or any other member of the Administration that you did not want to be kept informed of the Iran initiative?

I never made such a statement. What I did say to Admiral Poindexter was that I wanted to be informed of the things I needed to know to do my job as Secretary of State, but he didn't need to keep me posted on the details, the operational details, of what he was doing. That's what I told him ... the reason for that was that there had been a great amount of discussion of leaks in the Administration, and justifiably so. I think it is a terrible thing that goes on in Washington, leaks from everywhere, constantly. And we're all very concerned about it ...



## Life Guard's drugs case

## Swedes postpone Hayward trial to pursue questioning

From Philip Jacobson, Uppsala, Sweden

After another day of conflicting rumours, the Swedish judge due to preside over the trial of Life Guards officer Simon Hayward on drug smuggling charges has announced a further postponement of the hearings.

Sources close to the case in Uppsala revealed late yesterday that a vital new piece of information had begun the outcome of which "could decide whether Captain Hayward is innocent or guilty".

This unexpected twist to the Hayward affair may indicate that one of the witnesses who has already given pre-trial testimony is now being re-examined. A number of people have already been jailed in Sweden for their involvement in the smuggling of an estimated £500,000 worth of hashish into the country in a car driven by Captain Hayward. The 31-year-old Cavalry officer, who rejects all the charges against him, has been in solitary confinement since his arrest in March this year.

According to Judge Ulf Hellebach of the Uppsala District Court, lawyers for the prosecution and the defence had jointly requested a postponement of the hearing, originally scheduled to open yesterday, in order to examine certain aspects of the case more closely.

The upshot is that Captain Hayward, a veteran of Northern Ireland and occasional military escort of the Queen and Mrs Thatcher, will certainly not be produced in court before Monday and

possibly for a further remand. The uncertainty which has so suddenly overtaken what Uppsala's Public Prosecutor, Mr Ulf Forsberg, formerly regarded as a cast-iron case is explained to a considerable degree by the possibility that another Hayward really ought to be in the dock too. The green XJ6 Jaguar that the Captain was driving on March 13 when Swedish police officers flagged him down on a lonely country road belonged to his older brother, Mr Christopher Hayward.

Captain Hayward maintains that his brother had asked him to ferry the car to a potential buyer in Sweden. Since his arrest, however, Mr Christopher Hayward's name has cropped up here as the alleged mastermind of the Spanish-based ring which had packed some 56 kilos of prime Moroccan hashish in the car.

An Interpol hunt is now



Captain Hayward: held in Swedish jail since March.

underway for this one-time hippie and former devotee of the Bagwan cult, who disappeared from his usual haunts on the island of Ibiza immediately a warrant was issued for his arrest.

What seems abundantly clear is that the British-registered Jaguar's progress northwards from Spain was monitored every mile of the way by Interpol and several West European drug squads. So were the movements of as many as a dozen of Mr Christopher Hayward's known associates, among them another Briton, Mr Forbes Mitchell. Swedish police claim that Mr Mitchell arrived in Stockholm by train early in March and was subsequently observed getting into the Jaguar in a town in the centre of the country.

According to one senior Swedish police source, it was only at this moment that Captain Hayward's alleged involvement became apparent and the two were picked up in the car shortly afterwards.

A month ago, Mitchell received a seven-year jail sentence for his part in smuggling the hashish into Sweden. In open court, he maintained that Mr Christopher Hayward was "the boss" of the Spanish operation and that Captain Hayward had become involved for money and excitement. Captain Hayward's lawyer accuses Mr Mitchell of lying about his client in an effort to "protect others".

We still do not know if this bitterly disputed evidence will be brought against Captain

Hayward. It also remains to be seen what, if any, use will be made of highly sensitive information said to have been passed to the Uppsala drugs squad by officers from Scotland Yard's National Drugs Intelligence Unit.

The public prosecutor was certainly very keen to get Detective Inspector David Morgan and Detective Sergeant Brian Moore into the witness box for this trial. After an official decision that the two should not testify for fear of blowing the cover of a prized informant, Mr Forsberg revealed last weekend that he had asked the Home Office through "diplomatic channels" to compel them to attend.

The prosecutor's indignation at what he sees as political interference in London has been fuelled by the discovery that the list of witnesses to be called for the defence includes the name of Chief Superintendent Basil Haddrell, head of Scotland Yard's Serious Crimes Squad. As far as can be ascertained, this high-ranking officer was to appear as a character witness, testifying that Captain Hayward once volunteered information to the police about a notorious pusher with whom a member of his family had become involved.

All this goes to suggest that Judge Hellebach and his committee of five state-appointed jury men will have their work cut out if the case—originally intended to last four days—ever gets to be heard in the bright and airy courtroom.

## Fur coat for the Duchess



The Duchess of York wearing the thigh-length fur coat which was presented to her as a gift to mark the first anniversary yesterday of her wedding to the Duke. He received a similar gift when the royal couple arrived in Edmonton, Alberta, on Wednesday night on the latest stage of their Canadian tour.

The couple, who were married in Westminster Abbey on July 23 last year, arrived in the provincial capital of Alberta late in the evening of July 22 (writes Alan Hamilton from Edmonton). But Mr Don Getty, the Premier of Alberta, told them that although local time was only seven in the evening, it was already past midnight in London. He therefore felt entitled to make the gift on behalf of the province.

Members of the royal couple's household said that the gifts were "a genuine surprise". The Duke's coat was of dark grey beaver

trimmed with leather; that for the Duchess was in light brown fox similarly trimmed. When the coats were presented at the official welcoming ceremony, the Duchess briefly put hers on and performed a twirl.

To defuse the protests of animal rights activists in Britain, Buckingham Palace officials pointed out that the beaver and the fox are not protected in Canada and that the pelts for the coats came from farmed or semi-farmed animals.

Mr Getty said afterwards that the decision to make the gifts had been that of himself and his wife. Unofficial estimates put the value of the two coats at about £3,000.

Mr Getty agreed that the gifts could be controversial, but he pointed out that they were appropriate from Alberta, a part of the world where the protests of the European animal-rights lobby

fall largely on deaf ears and in which the fur trade still provides significant employment.

Earlier in the day the Duke and Duchess made a whistle-stop visit to Winnipeg, capital of the sparsely populated grain-growing province of Manitoba. Among the moderately large crowd were a contingent from the 400-strong Winnipeg branch of the Monarchist League, which claims 15,000 members in Canada, and Mrs Janet Dyke, who had emigrated from the Duchess's home village of Dummer, Hampshire, and held a large placard saying so. It caught the royal couple's eye, but the Duchess declined Mrs Dyke's request for her autograph.

Last night, the couple were to celebrate their anniversary at a party at the Edmonton home of Mr Sandy McTaggart, a friend of the Duke from the term he spent at Lakeside College, Ontario.

## Woman is killed in Basque gunfight

Madrid — A young woman terrorist suspect was killed in a gunfight and eight other people arrested in an overnight round-up in San Sebastian of members of an alleged Basque terrorist killer squad by civil guard police, Interior Ministry sources said here yesterday (Harry Debelius writes).

Police claimed that the suspects were members of the Donosti commando of the outlawed separatist organization Eta, a unit which is blamed for six assassinations.

## Oops Pompeii

Naples (AP) — An Italian tourist who fell into a 98th pit in the ancient ruins of Pompeii has been awarded £400,000 damages.

## Killer heat

Belgrade (Reuters) — At least five people have died in a Yugoslavian heatwave, with temperatures topping 40°C (104°F).

## Power cut

Tokyo (AP) — Three overloaded electric generators in western Japan blew up, cutting power to millions of homes and bringing parts of Tokyo to a standstill.

## Port bomb

Jerusalem (AFP) — Explosives experts defused a bomb at the entrance to the port of Ashdod and police detained local Palestinian workers.

## Video purge

Peking (AFP) — Chinese authorities have destroyed more than 35,000 pornographic video cassettes confiscated here last month.

## Drug sentence

Delhi (AFP) — A pickpocket was jailed for 10 years and fined £5,000 for possessing one sixtieth of an ounce of heroin.

## Raids admitted

Moscow (Reuters) — A Frenchman held on suspicion of belonging to the guerrilla group Action Directe has confessed to a series of bank robberies and will be extradited to France.

## Beetle drive

New York (AP) — Passengers on a city bus fled when a horde of overheated cockroaches emerged from under a seat and crawled over them.

## Two executed

Kampala (AP) — Two soldiers from President Museveni's National Resistance Army were executed by firing squad for killing a civilian.

## Colombo's peace hopes rise as blueprint gains support

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The final accord to end the ethnic conflict which has cost 5,000 lives over the past four years in Sri Lanka has been reached, a senior minister said yesterday.

Mr Gamini Disanayake, the Minister of Lands, who has been promoting the new initiative during the past fortnight, said that it had been approved by the ruling party's parliamentary group. He said that the Indian High Commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, who met President Jayewardene on Wednesday evening after returning from Delhi and Madras, would travel to the Indian capital with the final proposals today. He added that the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, would visit Sri Lanka in the next 10 days.

Earlier yesterday, Sri Lanka's National Security Minister, Mr Lalith Athulthani, told the Chamber of Commerce here that peace was not a matter of years or months, but days.

What appears to be undue haste in reaching agreement is mainly because of fears that the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, currently on a tour of Japan, may object to the conditions when he returns to the island at the weekend. He has been a strong critic of India and said at a function in Tokyo this week that India should first help Sri Lanka to

deal with the terrorists instead of saying they would help deal with terrorism only after the Sri Lankan Government granted concessions.

Under the proposed draft, the Sri Lankan Government recognizes that the Northern and Eastern provinces are the homes of the Tamil-speaking people, but recognizes also that it also belongs to the Sinhalese and Muslims. The linking of the two provinces has been resisted by the majority Sinhalese population since independence and it is not expected to have a smooth passage. One of the chief Buddhist abbots, the Mahanayake Thero, of the Asgiriya Chapter in Kandy, has already written to President Jayewardene asking for the proposals to be withdrawn if they concede the linking of the Northern and Eastern provinces.

Another controversial proposal would make Sinhala, Tamil and English the official languages of the country.

President Jayewardene seems determined to go ahead with the proposals and has said that if they are not approved he will call a general election, which is welcomed by the Opposition though not by Government MPs. The chances of any agreement being approved after a general election are remote, since no party is likely to achieve the two-thirds majority needed to alter the constitution.

Yesterday President Jayewardene briefed the five Muslim MPs from the Eastern Province on the proposals and asked them to support the plan. The Muslims, who are a minority in the Eastern Province, have expressed fears that they will be swamped by the Tamils and have asked for their own state in the Amparai district to look after their own affairs.

The First Secretary at the Indian High Commission, Mr H. Puri, flew to the northern capital of Jaffna yesterday to meet the leaders of the guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who do not favour the proposals since they do not concede a separate state called Eelam. One of the conditions of the agreement is that the Tamil guerrillas should lay down their arms. In return, the Government will restrict the troops to the barracks.

Informed sources said the peace plan also had a timetable and that the proposed elections to the district or regional council of the northern and eastern provinces should be held before December 31 1987.

Indian and Sri Lankan security personnel will jointly patrol the narrow strip between Sri Lanka and India called the Palk Straits to prevent any arms flow from south India to Sri Lanka.

## Canada to free 117 smuggled Asians

From John Best, Ottawa

Immigration officials have agreed to release 117 of the 174 Asians who were landed illegally in south-western Nova Scotia early on July 12 pending adjudication of their claims to refugee status.

However, only one has formally been released. The others were being held until individual bonds of several thousand dollars can be put up as sureties that they will not abscond.

Most of the immigrants are Sikhs. One of them, Mr Amarjit Singh Garcha, aged 24, has been refused temporary release because he told a plainclothes policeman he would be willing to commit murder if ordered to do so by the All-India Sikh Students' Federation.

Most of those Sikhs detained say they would be persecuted if they were sent back to India, from where they still claim to have come directly, although there is strong evidence that their immediate point of departure was either Holland or West Germany.

Meanwhile, authorities have begun questioning a young Spanish-speaking man who could be one of five people still wanted by police in connection with the alien smuggling operation.

## Paraguay's booming 'enterprise'

## Shoppers face a choice of contraband

From Eduardo Cué, Asunción, Paraguay

At the Vendôme shopping centre, a luxurious five-storey building in the heart of Asunción, shoppers can choose from among Swiss watches, German crystal, Italian fashions and American luggage. Stores across the city display the latest video-cassette recorders and stereo systems from Japan. In restaurants and bars Scotch whisky and French wines are always on the menu.

The reason for such an ostentatious display of wealth in the capital of one of Latin America's poorer countries is simple — contraband.

"Here the business of contraband is an institution, a great enterprise," said Señor Tito Francisco Scavone, the president of the Paraguayan Industrial and Commercial Federation.

While the practice has always existed during the 33-year-old regime of General Alfredo Stroessner, private economists and businessmen say that in the past four years groups linked to the military have taken control of the business. The result has been an unprecedented growth in illegal trade.

"Before it was just whisky and cigarettes, now it's all sorts of electronic gadgetry and innumerable other products," said Señor Pablo Alfredo Herken, a researcher at the Paraguayan Centre for Sociological Studies. "Two years

ago it would have seemed impossible that a store like Vendôme could have existed here."

Items ranging from Rolex watches to IBM computers enter the country legally as transit goods that are supposed to exit through Puerto Stroessner on the Brazilian border. In fact, the merchandise that does not remain in Asunción enters Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia through well-established contraband routes, defying import restrictions and duties and netting huge profits for the traders.

"It is impossible to become an importer of household appliances or electronic equipment without some very strong political backing," Señor Alfredo Herken said in a reference to the widespread involvement of government and military officials and their friends in the illegal trade.

Yet, manifest as it is, the contraband in luxury items does not pose a serious threat to the Paraguayan economy. The real problem lies with the illegal export of raw materials such as cotton and soy beans and the illegal import of cement, steel and other items that are cheaper and superior in quality to those produced locally.

Economists estimate that more than 70 per cent of Paraguay's trade with other countries is done through contraband, depriving the Central Bank of hard currency

and retarding industrial development.

The motor behind the thriving contraband business is the Government's unrealistically low rate of exchange. While the current rate for Guaraníes, the national currency, is 800 to the US dollar, on the open market, the Central Bank offers exporters a rate of only 550 Guaraníes. Because of the difference industrialists prefer to sell their products through contraband and receive the free market rate for their dollars. According to economists, a more realistic exchange rate would both slow the tide of imports and make exports more competitive.

The artificially low rate is maintained so that the Government can subsidize the chronic deficits of public sector companies built with the almost \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) of foreign currency that flowed into the economy during construction of the giant Itaipu hydro-electric plant on the Brazilian border. The project's completion in 1981, coupled with a sharp decline in world prices for soy beans and cotton, which account for 80 per cent of the country's legal exports, threw the Paraguayan economy into a recessionary tailspin from which it has been unable to recover.

"The difference between Paraguay and other Latin American countries is that while other governments recognize that they have an economic crisis, this one does not," remarked a foreign economic analyst. "This Govern-

ment is totally unable to implement rational economic reforms because such reforms would result in removing the privileges of those in power."

The low exchange rate has led to serious disputes between the Government and the World Bank. In mid-1985 the bank refused to accept the artificially low rate and suspended all loans to Paraguay until December 1986. That month an agreement was reached establishing the rate at 550 Guaraníes to the dollar. But since then the free market rate has shot up from 650 to 800 Guaraníes to the dollar, thereby renewing pressure on the Government to bring its rate closer to that of the open market.

The low exchange rate and the Government's unwillingness to reduce the bloated public sector have forced the Treasury to meet its obligations by drawing on reserves which have declined from an \$850 million surplus in 1981 to \$250 million today. The economy declined by 5 per cent in 1986 and a further 2 per cent negative growth rate is expected this year.

Economists and businessmen here say that the situation can be turned around, but they say time is running out. "I do not think we can continue in this way for more than a year," said Señor Francisco Scavone, of the Industrialists' Federation. "The only one who can take the necessary measures without paying a high political price is Stroessner."

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\*An allowance of 40% has been made for dealing costs.

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Share Bought	Date Bought	Date Sold	Buy Price	Sell Price	Capital after sale
Greene King	11/08/85	11/09/85	162p	216p	£26,998
Summit Station	11/09/85	11/10/85	77p	94p	£25,032
Summit	11/10/85	12/01/85	94p	27p	£38,775
Wine & Pies	12/01/85	12/02/85	28p	47p	£28,281
Star Plus Group	12/02/85	12/03/85	27p	30p	£24,634

\*An allowance of 40% has been made for dealing costs.

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# Seaside conference sets the scene for change in Peking

From Robert Grieves  
Peking

In compounds off-limits to public bathing at the famous seaside resort of Beidaihe, 200 miles from Peking, China's leaders have begun the process to choose a new general secretary for the 44-million strong Communist Party and a successor to the ageing Mr Deng Xiaoping. The question of political reform, an explosive issue between conservative and liberal factions, is also likely to be discussed.

The trip to Beidaihe, on the Bohai Sea, is an annual pilgrimage that empties Peking of its leading political figures. Decisions reached in the sealed-off compounds will be made known at the 13th congress of the party in October.

While some time is allowed for receptions and family reunions, much serious business is also conducted at Beidaihe. A successor to Mr Hu Yaobang, who was ousted as party general secretary in January, must be chosen. The question of Mr Deng's



Mr Deng: Wants to give up several of his posts.

retirement must also be considered. Mr Deng has said he would like to give up at least one of his political posts in October.

Chinese sources say that a top-level, five-man committee has already been set up to nominate suitable candidates to various party organizations at the party congress. The members of the committee

include Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister and acting General Secretary, as chairman; Mr Wan Li, a senior deputy Prime Minister; Mr Hu Qili, a rising political star within the party who acted as general secretary while Mr Zhao was in Eastern Europe and Pakistan earlier this year; Mr Yang Shangkun, a Long March veteran who is vice-chairman of the Central Military Committee; and Mr Bo Yibo, a conservative economist and party disciplinarian.

Mr Bo is the only ideologically conservative member of the committee. The other members are considered to be reformists allied with Mr Deng, Chinese sources said.

Mr Deng's strategy for the October congress remains unclear. He has said he would like to step down from the standing committee of the Politburo, which controls the party, and give up either the chairmanship of the two military commissions that he holds or else the chairmanship of the party's central advisory committee.

It is thought that by step-

ping down from the standing committee, Mr Deng would bring with him such ideological conservatives as the ailing Mr Chen Yun. Presumably, the conservatives would be replaced by younger, reform-oriented men.

But Chinese sources maintain that not all of the old "deadwood" leaders that Mr Deng wants to rid the party of would have to follow his lead into retirement.

What is not in doubt is Mr Deng's intention to have Mr Zhao, aged 68, succeed Mr Hu as the party's General Secretary. Mr Deng recently told Chancellor Kohl of West Germany that Mr Zhao would be confirmed as the party General Secretary in October.

The question of a successor to Mr Zhao as Prime Minister also appears to be as open now as it was in January, after Mr Hu's departure. At least half a dozen candidates, beginning with Mr Li Peng, the senior deputy Prime Minister, and ending with Mr Hu Qili, have been mentioned by Chinese sources during the past six months.

## Chiefs pull back on Fijian republic

By Stephen Taylor

Fiji's Great Council of Chiefs has again pulled back from the brink of declaring the South Pacific island group a republic, to the relief of Western diplomats in Canberra.

At the same time the chiefs, who have been the key power brokers in Fiji since the May 14 military coup, have presented a formula which opens up the opportunity of resolving the continuing political impasse.

A committee appointed by the chiefs is due to meet today to draft a legal framework for the formula approved on Wednesday, which would give indigenous Fijians an entrenched majority in Parliament over ethnic Indians.

The chiefs' initiative was a response to pressure from the extremist Taukei movement of indigenous Fijians, which supported the coup by Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, and wanted a republic declared.

● **Restraint urged:** Colonel Rabuka, head of the country's armed forces, appealed for calm yesterday after youths went on the rampage and an explosion rocked a nightclub in the capital, Suva.



Christopher Lee Marshall, aged 10, of Oceano, California, emerging triumphant from his single-engine Piper Warrior aircraft at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Wednesday after he became the youngest pilot to fly across the United States.

## Caribbean unity

# Mini-states plan to merge as a nation within two years

From Jeremy Taylor, Trinidad

Six mini-states in the eastern Caribbean, including a British colony, plan to unite into a single nation within two years. With a combined population of almost 600,000, they believe they would have more say in the world, a better flow of aid, improved administration and more security.

The idea is being advocated by the prime ministers of St Lucia, Mr John Compton, and St Vincent, Mr James Mitchell. Together with Grenada, Dominica, St Kitts and the British colony of Montserrat, they have undertaken to initiate public discussion of the idea, to be followed by national referendums.

The six all belong to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the group which issued the formal invitation.

The other organization member is Antigua, whose 77-year-old Prime Minister, Mr Vere Bird, says he wants nothing to do with the idea. "We fought for years to get away from being a colony," he complained, "and now that the people have won and have the right to run their own affairs, you're coming and telling me that we should all have one government? Antigua is not interested in that." He prefers an association with his nearest neighbours, St Kitts and Montserrat, which would not include political union.

Mr Mitchell, in a discussion paper last year, envisaged a single republic headed by a president, who would appoint a governor in each existing state. The parliament would be elected by a combination of proportional representation and constituency voting, on the West German pattern. At present, the Queen is head of state in all six countries.

The Caribbean left, which is in opposition throughout the group, sees the scheme as a plot hatched by the US to further its own interests, principally in the security field. The suspicion is that Washington has concluded that the best way to prevent a recurrence of Grenada's 1979-83 revolution would be to combine the existing mini-states in a single nation.

There has been lively debate about the islands' regional security system, which consists mainly of local police forces and paramilitary units, and whether it should become a regional army.

Mr Compton, the current chairman of the organization, rejects the left's suspicions as "insulting".

The proposal appeals to a deeply entrenched Caribbean dream of integration. The idea is that several months of discussion in each country will be followed by individual referendums and the drafting of a constitution, and by a further referendum on that.

Mr Mitchell says it is vital to avoid presenting the scheme as a new federation — the West Indies Federation broke up in failure and bitterness in 1962 after only four years.

The most serious obstacles to the new scheme include leadership, inter-governmental relations, revenue-sharing and the choice of a capital. But the most controversial issue is likely to be the loss of national sovereignty for the states.

A soldier, dragging an unwilling girl, made a sneering remark about the young monk who had stepped into his path. "Quickly Gabriel took the man's pistol out of his holster and threatened to shoot

## Pyongyang calls for troop cuts on border

By David Watts

North Korea has proposed a drastic reduction of military forces on both sides of the 38th parallel beginning with a unilateral cutback of 100,000 of its own troops by the end of this year.

In a broadcast over Radio Pyongyang monitored in Japan, the North Korean Government said that it was seeking a three-stage reduction of forces over a four-year period, and suggested holding a multi-lateral arms reduction conference next March in Geneva.

The conference would be between North and South Korea, the United States and those countries involved in the United Nations' monitoring of the truce in the Demilitarized Zone, of which Britain is one.

Under the proposal the North called for reduction of forces on both sides to less than 100,000 each by 1991. It said it was willing to wait until that level was reached for the removal of United States forces in South Korea.

At the moment South Korean regular forces are estimated at 598,000 and those in the North at 838,000. North Korea's defence expenditure in 1985 was estimated at \$4.2 billion (£2.6 billion) and that of the South at \$4.4 billion.

The plan appears to be aimed at throwing another element into Pyongyang's bid to host part of the Olympic Games next year. The proposal for arms reduction talks in Geneva is both another way of trying to get tripartite talks going and winning points for North Korea as a peacemaker. The US has consistently rejected tripartite negotiations over the Korean peninsula.

The timing of the conference proposal for March, though, appears to be an attempt to stir the already bubbling pot of South Korean politics.

● **SEOUL:** The governing and opposition parties in South Korea yesterday postponed efforts to draft a new constitution (AP reports).

Both sides cited the civil chaos caused by widespread flooding that has killed at least 95 people and caused property damage estimated at \$22 million (£13.7 million).

"We will delay all internal political schedules as well as negotiations with the Opposition," a spokesman for the governing Democratic Justice Party said after this week's record rainfall and flooding.

The main opposition Reunification Democratic Party said it also wanted to "pay more attention to the flood damage".

● **Rescue work:** Military helicopters and motor boats yesterday went to the rescue of 300 South Korean villagers stranded by floods and landslide, officials said (Reuters reports from Seoul).

## Gun lobby raises its sights and seeks a saint

From Michael Binyon  
Washington

A director of a leading US gun lobby has written to the Vatican asking the Pope to declare a boyish 19th-century Italian saint "the patron of handgunners".

Mr John Snyder, public affairs director of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, said in his organization's newsletter *Point Blank*, that such a move would be "most welcome here in the United States, where tens of millions of law-abiding citizens own firearms, including 50 million handgunners". He added: "It would also be a further indication of the fact that an instrument, in the hands of a person committed in heart, mind and soul to Almighty God, may be used to bring about practical good here on earth."

Mr Snyder told *The Times* he was still

awaiting a reply from the Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints to his letter of May 1.

The saint his organization has in its sights is St Gabriel Possenti, who was beatified in 1908 and canonized in 1920.

A clerical student in a monastery in Isola, high in the Italian mountains, St Gabriel is reputed to have single-handedly saved the town from rape and pillage by brandishing two handguns. In 1859, as the Piedmontese Army, which had joined forces with Garibaldi, was approaching Isola, a group of 20 drunken and abusive soldiers started ransacking the town and burning the houses.

A soldier, dragging an unwilling girl, made a sneering remark about the young monk who had stepped into his path. "Quickly Gabriel took the man's pistol out of his holster and threatened to shoot

if the man moved or failed to release her," Mr Snyder said, quoting from a life of modern saints.

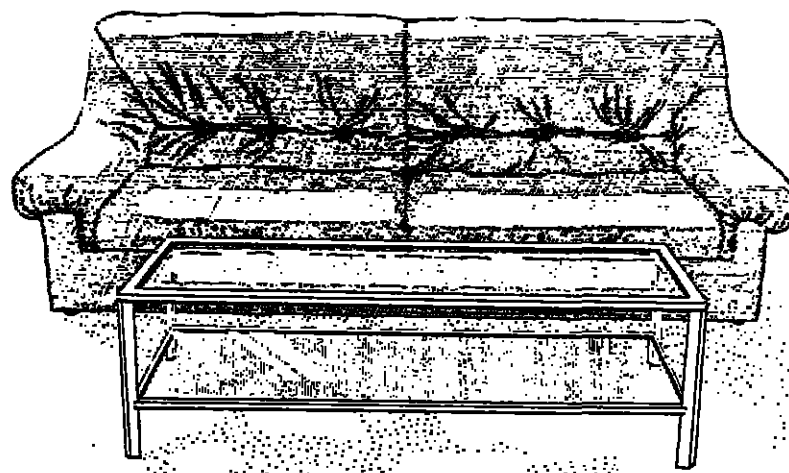
"Seeing a second soldier, Gabriel shouted a command for him to drop his gun, which the surprised soldier did. Well armed, all of Gabriel's hunting training came back to him. The shouts of his captives had brought the rest of the company to the scene. Gabriel demanded their disarmament.

"Just then a lizard darted into the street and paused a moment. Gabriel barely took aim before he fired and the lizard flopped over dead... His display of marksmanship had impressed the cowardly crew and they disarmed immediately. The rest of the soldiers then took to their heels. Gabriel died a few years later, aged only 24.

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\* Collins & Hayes:

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\* Peter Guild:

'Marseilles' in cotton print fabric

Three-seater Sofa	£935	£655
Two-seater Sofa	£845	£590
Wing Chair	£450	£315

'Camargue' in cotton print fabric

Emperor Three-seater Sofa	£1,335	£1,040
Standard Two-seater Sofa	£1,185	£925
Emperor Chair	£685	£535

\* Tetrad:

'Cougar' in leather, Swivel Chair & Footstool	£600	£425
'Tosca' in black leather, Three-seater three-piece Suite	£2,440	£1,595

\* Michael Tyler:

'Gignus' in Alcantara, Large Sofa & Two Chairs	£2,110	£1,675
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\* Venusia Italian Furniture, Chrome-finish and leather.

'Wassily' style Chair	£220	£175
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# A profit minded professor

An entrepreneurial West German has proved that, with the right approach, money can be made out of research even in brain-drained Britain — without the sacrifice of academic freedom. Sally Brompton reports

Professor Bodo Linnhoff has made two major academic breakthroughs in his life. The first was when he discovered the Pinch principle of thermodynamics, which has saved countless companies tens of millions of pounds in energy conservation. The second was when he created a consortium of multi-national companies to fund research into his new technology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST).

Technology transfer between academia and industry is the latest buzz phrase in Britain's universities as they search for new methods of topping up their dwindling government grants. Linnhoff's consortium uses commercial money without loss of academic freedom, and could also begin to reverse the accelerating brain drain of top scientists and engineers from the UK.

Linnhoff has proved that, for anyone with the right attitude and ability, British academia can be both intellectually and financially rewarding. A likeable 38-year-old West German, he studied mechanical engineering at Hano-

ver and Zurich before coming to Leeds University in 1974 to do a post-graduate degree in chemical engineering.

"It revealed to me the tremendous gap between academia and industry," he explains. "It seemed that as far as engineering was concerned, all the money, projects and practical knowledge were in industry while universities were 20 years behind and completely in the dark." He spent five years working for ICI as a process engineer, leaving to become professor of chemical engineering at UMIST, aged only 32.

His discovery in 1972, while still a student, of the Pinch principle has won him awards from all over the world, including a Royal Society Gold Medal. The principle "sets a rigorous, practical achievable target on energy consumption", enabling companies to predict their energy costs and cut them by an average of 30 per cent. In the case of a company like BASF, that means an annual saving of £60 million.

The discovery also formed the basis for his Centre for Process Integration at UMIST, which he founded in 1983 to further develop Pinch technology. Process

integration is a method of saving energy and improving efficiency by looking at a company's entire production process. Instead of each individual process, the attraction to industry of Pinch technology is its potential for instant energy-saving.

With the industrial benefits of the process in mind, Linnhoff set about forming his consortium of a maximum of 20 companies, each paying an annual fee — currently £13,000 — in return for a first look at the results of the centre's research before they are published. Sponsorship by consortium has already caught on in British universities, but the close working links between the two sides and the amount of academic freedom that exists in Linnhoff's case are rare, if not unique.

"The companies don't tell us what to research and they don't own our results," says Linnhoff. "If you like, we are functioning according to the academic ideal. We are doing what we want and if the companies want to see what we do, they have to pay for it."

In the three years since its foundation, the consortium has attracted 17 multi-nationals, including BP, Procter & Gamble,

Unilever, BASF, Union Carbide and Shell. Several of the companies are in direct competition. "Everything Bodo Linnhoff does, he does very well," says Dr Mike Self, chemical engineering support manager of BP International. "He's a genius, technically brilliant and a good salesman."

Linnhoff has built what he calls a three-legged chair: his centre, his consortium and a British and American-based consortium, Linnhoff March, which markets process integration world-wide. Each leg of the chair feeds off the other two, bringing mixed reactions from his academic colleagues. Certain of them, he admits, disapprove of the fact that he makes money from his brainchild.

He has no qualms, however, about displaying the fruits of his labours, like his Porsche 911 — which he also races — and his rare hand-built A.C. Ace Bristol. He lives in a peaceful leafy suburb of Manchester and has a country cottage for weekends.

Since, as a result of the consortium, the staff at the Process Integration Centre does one-quarter

of the department's ordinary work on 3 per cent of the existing government funding, Linnhoff argues that, taken as a model, a similarly privately-funded centre could do all the work of the department on just 12 per cent of the present level of funding. "And we'd still be educating the same students in the same way, and still employing the same tutors."

The consortium last year won the Department of Trade and Industry's £20,000 award for collaboration between industry and universities, an indication of how it coincides precisely with the Thatcher Government's formula for free enterprise.

The cap-in-hand approach has become a way of life for British universities, as government grants drop in real terms by 2 per cent each year. The problem lies in deciding how much of their academic soul they should sell in return for industrial bounty. Companies which sponsor university chairs, projects and departments frequently demand more than their pound of flesh in terms of dictating areas of research and suppressing results.

"It is very much a thicket — and an area where improvements need to be made," says Kurt Deutsch,

technology transfer officer at Warwick University, which receives £5 million a year from industry. "But it will take some years to establish a *modus operandi* and many universities are struggling with that." Warwick's own policy is to negotiate with the companies concerned to at least protect the academics' right to publish the results of research.

"Our links with industry have to be seen to be giving us an outlet for academic excellence," says Deutsch. "The trade-off is a surrendering of academic freedom against more money and it is a very tricky thing to do."

Linnhoff is anxious that other universities should study his methods. Manchester University already has a similar research consortium in operation and more in the pipeline. The members of his own consortium meet regularly to exchange ideas.

To Linnhoff the pursuit of excellence — be it in academia, industry or on the amateur motor racing circuit — is all important. "My ambition? All I want is to race a Porsche," he says with deceptive modesty. "I think once I'm able to pay for that — I'm all right."

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Professor Bodo Linnhoff: "We are functioning according to the academic ideal. We are doing what we want and if the companies want to see what we do, they have to pay"

## VALUE FOR MONEY?

From the industrial viewpoint, Bodo Linnhoff's consortium is a mixed blessing. "One might argue that it has certain disadvantages in that you're in with other competitors," says BP's Dr Mike Self, one of the consortium's founding members. "But what you make of the information is the important thing."

The fact that its members also have no control over either the research or the results is clearly a drawback. "The university can withhold information if they think it's commercially viable," Self says. "At the time I objected to this and we had a long argument but at the end of the day they make the decisions. At the moment we feel it's good value for money. And what strings there are, we know about."

Certainly, the cost is less than it would be with most other forms of sponsorship. "The problem with individual sponsorship is that it's very difficult to put forward the amount of money needed to really get an in-depth study done in a particular area," says Dr Keith Baker, Unilever's head of process systems engineering.

# Journey in the footsteps of the Yeti

A British Army team sets off on Monday to explore the remote and mysterious Karakoram region of south-western China

The days of intrepid Western military men opening up the unknown fastnesses of Asia are nearly done; but not quite. One of the last such unexplored regions is about to receive an expedition from the Royal Engineers.

The Chinese Karakoram, the high plateau in Western Xinjiang which leads up the Himalayas, is still mysterious and largely unmapped. It contains glaciers, which periodically melt and cause devastating floods and loss of life in the lowlands 250 miles away; the third highest unclimbed mountain in the world, Huang

Guan (the Crown); and possibly, the Yeti. A small team of sappers and other servicemen is off to survey the first, scale the second, and take the third as they find him.

Only two Western explorers are known to have penetrated the Chinese Karakoram: Sir Francis Younghusband in 1887, passing through while traversing all Asia, and Eric Shipton, who organized a four-month expedition in 1937.

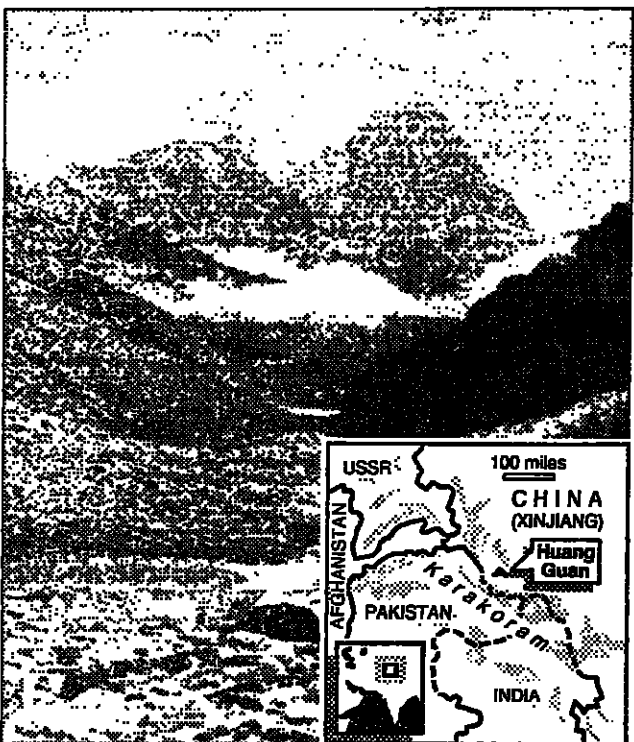
The region was so little known that Shipton entitled his account *Blank on the Map* and things have hardly changed in 50 years: Chinese

government travel restrictions have prevented serious exploration and even today most of the area, at 14,000ft or more and out of effective helicopter operating range, is accessible only on foot or by pack animal.

Not that this bothers Captain Henry Morgan, RE, organizer of the three-month expedition which will mark the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Engineers being awarded its Royal title, or the intrepid bunch who are accompanying him. "I think it's because it's so unknown that makes it a complete adventure," says the captain, a running, jumping and very rarely standing still sort of chap who is currently the Army's Inspector of Driving.

He is 32 and has led numerous climbing expeditions in America and the Alps, but the trek to the Karakoram is his pride and joy. He badgered the Chinese for 18 months to let him in. Its highlight, he hopes, will be the climbing of 24,000ft Huang Guan.

"I love the idea of us being the first people, not just on a particular peak or ridge, but on a whole mountain," he says. Planning the first ascent



Misty mountain: the only known photograph of Huang Guan, taken by the explorer Eric Shipton in 1937

will be particularly challenging, as there is no record of any Westerner having seen the crown from the north or west.

Accompanying him will be six other sappers, all trained in survival, medical and mountaineering techniques; they include Captain John Day, the expedition's surveyor, and Major Hugh McManners, who

wrote a book about his experience as commander of a Forward Observation Troop in the Falklands, and will be writing another book about this expedition.

The team, who are still looking for British sponsors, hope to repay their Chinese hosts by scientific research: they will gather data on the

Karakoram glaciers, especially in the completely unexplored Upper Shaksam Valley, which may help to predict the awesome flash floods which occur when glacier-formed "ice-dams", blocking the summer melt-water, suddenly burst.

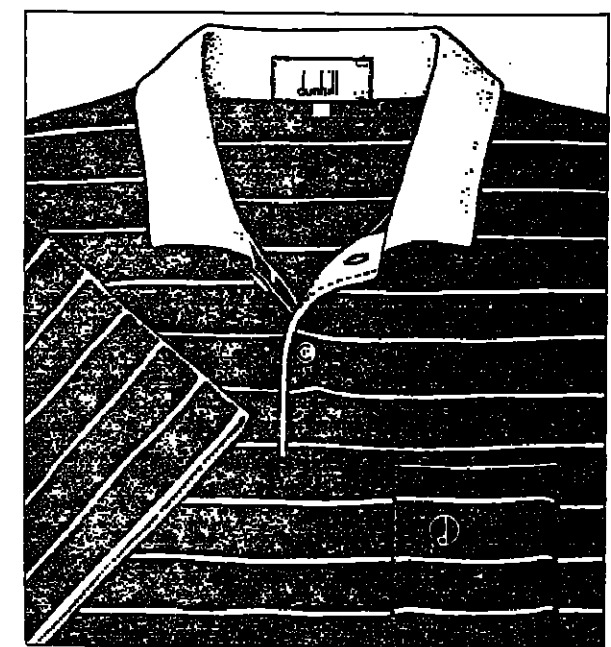
Shipton described his first glimpses of the peak he christened "the crown" 50 years ago: "As we turned to go back to camp we looked up the crevasse glacier and saw, in the far distance, a superb mountain, shaped like a trident, piercing the sunset. I felt stirred by compelling impatience to find out how high it was, and where it stood..."

Morgan's expedition leaves for China on Monday and travels by rail and air through Peking to Urumqi in Xinjiang; a 10-day truck journey will take it to the edge of the Karakoram. From there it will be an expedition in the old style, with an undoubtedly Victorian Empire flavour, and may be one of the last: a 70-mile trek to base camp with a train of 24 camels to carry the equipment, and Shanks pony thereafter, into the unknown, the trackless, mapless wastes.

Here be monsters? Well, a member of Shipton's expedition found huge inexplicable tracks in the snow...

Michael McCarthy

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Delegates will be spelling out their plans for simplified English this weekend

There is a conference at Aston University, Birmingham, this weekend whose members would like to kick the "h" clean out of the word Birmingham. They would also amputate the "g" from gnaw, the "h" from heir, the "k" from knee and the "n" from autumn.

As you may have guessed (or gest), the 24-odd congregants belong to an organization called the Simplified Spelling Society, and are bent on unbending our absurd system of spelling. The self-given remit of the 120-strong group is to reform the centuries-old system of English verbiage, which it considers erratic and impenetrable.

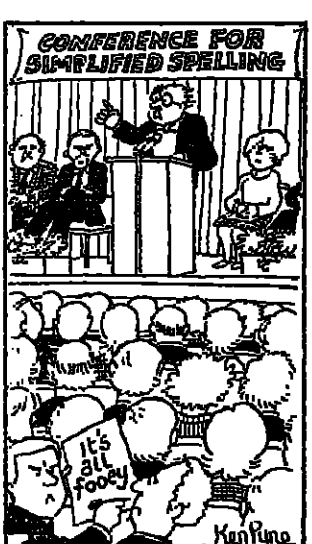
Chris Jolley, the society's chairman, comes from a profession seldom linked with fine words — market consultancy — but makes an eloquent case for reform: "Good business has a great deal to do with good communication. Take a slogan such as Beanz Meanz Heinz: it's a good example of getting the message across clearly, though not something to be expected in everyday usage. The more that reformed spellings pass into the language without being noticed, the better."

One of the precepts behind

## A short werd from a man of few leters

the conference is Cut-Spelling: expunging those archaic pile-ups of letters (such as the collection of "o's" and "u's", "g's" and "h's" in words like thoroughly). Cut-spellers say they could make our language more accessible.

"In most languages, the way in which words are spelt has a conscious correlation to the way in which they are pronounced," Jolley says. "In Anglo-Saxon times, this spelling system was fairly regular; then along came the Normans with their own way of spelling."



In due course the British mode of spelling became the victim not so much of elision as collision.

But should language not be considered as a repository of the various cultures which moulded it into its present form? Cut-spellers take a different view. They say one can respect the historical provenance of the tongue, while making it more efficient through reasoned revision.

"For 400 years and more, English scholars and writers have been aware that English

grammar, partly for reasons of the country's social history, has been very unsystematic," says Chris Upward, a lecturer in modern languages at Aston. "You may say that the construction of our language is itself a reflection of a cultural background. But there have been mistakes; for example, letters have been inserted into our spelling by misguided scholars, particularly in the 16th century. They put the letter 'p' into the word receipt without any etymological justification."

Jolley enthuses: "If cut-spelling were introduced, we could cut the number of letters we expend by some 10 or 15 per cent. Look at the doubling of letters that we have. Why have two 'c's and two 'm's in accommodation?"

However, it must be said that the society is not exactly economic with words. According to Jolley, it aims to "collate insights from the worlds of teaching, publishing, linguistics and psychology and related fields to develop a common understanding of the different expectations and constraints which any proposals for reforming English spelling must take into account."

Alan Franks

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1317

**ACROSS**

- Pastures, forests, deity (6)
- Waterproof jacket (6)
- Pleasing (4)
- Tobacco's partner (8)
- River mouth (7)
- Devout (5)
- 7 days after Pentecost (7,6)
- Eve's forbidden fruit (5)
- Latticework (7)
- Self love (8)
- Victory branch (4)
- Humily (6)
- Troquois people (6)

**DOWN**

- Fantastic notion (7)
- German submarine (1-4)
- Indian instrument (5)
- Keen (4)
- Giant conifer (7)
- Acclaim (5)
- Liquorice-flavoured plant (5)
- Prim, proper man (5)
- Beseech (7)
- Muslim veil (7)
- Broadside on (5)
- Restore weapons (5)
- S. American pack animal (5)
- Covetousness (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO.1316**  
**ACROSS:** 1 Behave 4 Staple 9 Allegro 10 Giant 11 Fell 12 Explode 14 Down-to-earth 15 Reflect 19 Nile 22 Forest 24 Geoid 25 Endure 26 Agency.  
**DOWN:** 1 Bray 2 Halve 3 Vigilante 5 Tag 6 Provost 7 Either 8 Dove Cottage 11 Fad 13 Plainsong 15 Offhand 16 Hoe 17 Trille 20 Loden 21 Levy 23 Ear.

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## Loaves and fishes

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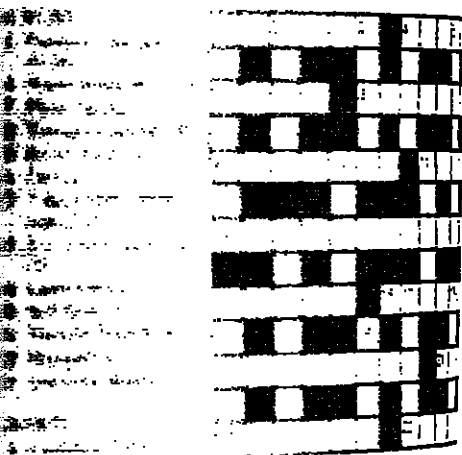


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VALUE FOR MONEY

[illegible]

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO. 11



1. 1000 2. 1000 3. 1000 4. 1000 5. 1000  
 6. 1000 7. 1000 8. 1000 9. 1000 10. 1000  
 11. 1000 12. 1000 13. 1000 14. 1000 15. 1000  
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**SATURDAY**  
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# Loaves and fishes



THE TIMES DIARY

A wider Weidenfeld

At least one British publisher has taken heed of the current merger mania in the book world and gone for an indigenous company. Weidenfeld & Nicolson is to buy J.M. Dent & Son, publisher of the Everyman series and Chambers Encyclopedia and whose list includes Dr Johnson and Kenneth Williams. Dent, which was bought out by its present management from the founding family in 1983, confesses that it needed more capital to continue independently and will celebrate its centenary next year in association with the mercurial Lord Weidenfeld - Weidenfeld's itself is the junior at a mere 40 years old in 1988. All three Dent owner-directors, Jo Chamberlain, Patrick Johnson and Peter Sheppard, plan to stay on in the merged company although it has not yet been decided whether they will all be housed in Weidenfeld's Clapham offices.

Glory game

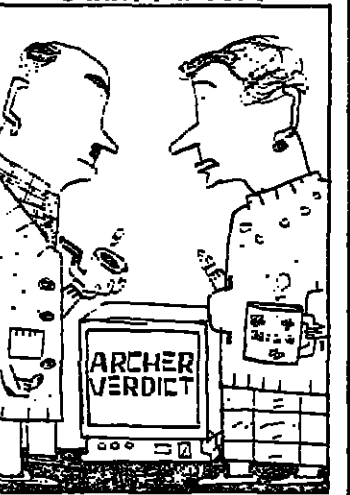
They were playing Norman Tebbit's tune on Wednesday night. As the Tory party chairman strode into Central Office's election victory knees-up, the reception room swelled with the sound of Andrew Lloyd Webber's campaign anthem. Tebbit was greeted by a line-up of female party workers, each bearing the slogan "Norman's Conquest" across her T-shirt. With Downing Street planning two further celebrations next week, does victory have any more garlands to throw at his feet?

Small ad in the Methodist Recorder: "Not for sale, but offered free to large enough minister/pastor. Almost new grey suit (chest 52in), cassock and other sundry nearly-new items."

Social shirk

Sociologists, who are quick enough to inquire into other people's business, are apparently not too keen on being examined themselves. The Times Higher Education Supplement periodically writes to the heads of departments at universities and polytechnics asking which they think are the five best places to study their subject. Today the THES sorrowfully reports that the nation's sociologists have collectively decided to boycott its "peer review". Only 11 of 57 departments returned the questionnaire. For the record, the top three choices of those who did reply were: Oxford, the LSE and Essex.

BARRY FANTONI



'Change channels, dear - the Joan Collins case is on the other side'

Word play

I am unconvinced, though I am open to persuasion, that the Oberammergau villagers in Germany who once a decade stage the passion play have sufficiently cleaned up their act. Responding to charges of anti-semitism, villagers and scholars have rewritten Pilate's traditional question to Jesus: "Am I then a Jew?" According to today's Catholic Herald, when the play is performed in 1990 Pilate will ask: "Am I then a Jew - like you?" Stephen Roth, director of the Institute for Jewish Affairs, said yesterday the line appeared to suggest that, after 350 years, the text now accepted the Jewishness of Christ. "If, however, it still insists on calling the Jewish people a 'cursed people', it will still be unacceptable," he told me, wearily recalling that a liberal rewrite in the late 1960s got no further than the rehearsal stage.

Whitehall wisecrack: the Russians have good news and bad news for Matthias Rust. The good news: he's getting his plane back. The bad: he's got to fly it out.

Jackets off

Yet another urban tribe has been identified in the United States. New York magazine has just run a cover story on "couch potatoes" - professionals who, having married in their late twenties, are reluctant to move from the comfort of their apartments in the evening. From their designer sofas they live life to the full by sampling cable TV, videos, home-made meals, magazines and contemporary novels. The trend is so pronounced that Manhattan nightclubs and restaurants report late slackening and bookings for earlier and earlier in the evening to allow the potatoes home in time for the late show. One yuppie admits he has gone "from stud to spud in five years". And most tellingly, according to the feature, sales of expensive sofas have simply soared.

Go for the town hall jugular

by Teresa Gorman

The government will dissipate a lot of its energy and much of its political capital in promoting the community charge to replace the rates. The new tax may be more equitable. It will make people aware of local profligacy. But I'm not convinced that new ways of funding municipal socialism should be occupying so much of Nicholas Ridley's imagination. He would enjoy himself much more and endear himself to all of us if he started to dissolve local authorities altogether.

He has started to apply the fresh air of competition to a few municipal services. New legislation will force councils to open their cleaning, catering, laundering and refuse collecting to commercial tenders. If he extended this theme to every area of Nalogo and Nupie enterprise the dim empires which control "local democracy" would quickly be eroded.

The real heart of town hall waste is in the town halls themselves. The core services that are staffed by "the professionals" such as the legal, housing and education departments, social services and the accounts office are far more effective engines of inefficiency than the council's cleaning ladies. Mr Ridley should add these smug white-collar staff jobs to the list of those that must open their doors to tender. The inability of social work departments to protect

young children in their care epitomizes the failure of municipal socialism. Led by Harry Cowd, the London Borough of Merton has tried such ideas and found they work. Merton are the champion privatizers with 14 different services contracted out. Savings have averaged 33 per cent. The real benefits though, say councillors, are the enhanced self-respect, morale and motivation of the former employees. The architects' department has evolved into a successful private partnership and Merton hopes to offer management buy-out chances to all headquarters staff.

Yesterday Mr Ridley went through the annual ritual of announcing the level of rate support grant. Introduce the fresh air of competition and the need for rates or poll taxes, rate-capping, squalor, expense and tedium that define local authorities would evaporate.

One of our favourite British humbugs is that councillors have a sense of local duty and perform their committee chores with a real desire to serve their community. In my experience they are equally interested in empire building.

Occasionally a councillor may fasten on a particular incompetence or develop an enthusiasm

for closing down sex shops or building new public lavatories, but they usually do as bidden by their officials... invariably creating more jobs for the boys. Competition is the only way to reinvigorate this secret world.

Howard Davies, controller of the Audit Commission, which monitors local authority spending, forecasts that in the next five years the government's proposed reforms could cut municipal budgets by a third. He predicts that half the schools may opt out of local authority control and go independent and that a quarter of cleaning, catering and refuse collection services will be contracted out to private firms.

This, combined with the dissolving of council estates through direct sales, tenant management schemes and housing trusts will halve the stock of council housing. Davies calculates that local authority spending will drop by more than 30 per cent to only £20.9 billion with the average share county budget falling from £301 million to £193 million. He seems apprehensive, but ought to be pleased.

Why dilute these victories over bureaucracy? Let us insist that councils get rid of all their housing by turning rents into mortgages.

Free the serfs, and break the powers of local Labour parties. If Howard Davies thinks that only a quarter of ancillary services will be performed by commercial operators that can mean only that the provisions of the Local Government Bill need to be tightened to prevent the tenders from being rigged in the council's favour. Parks and libraries could be run on a subcontract basis. Fire services would be better run by insurance companies. Then local residents would have to pay only for common services such as street lights or lavatories.

The more enthusiastic privatizing Thatcherites like me believe that the application of market forces could convert local authorities from dim and spendthrift organizations into harmless bodies that meet four times a year to award their tenders. This must be a happier political target for the government than the prospect of a year's hard slog selling us the community charge.

Finally, if he forced local authorities to release all their holdings of land and property, Ridley would ensure that all councils had such a huge lump of capital that they could probably operate without levying any rates or charges for three or four years.

The author, Conservative MP for Billericay, was formerly a Westminster city councillor.

Anthony Parsons appeals for superpower restraint in the Gulf

The oil run tinderbox

The Middle East is probably the most dangerous region of the world in terms of the threat to global peace. Unlike other areas of tension, the perceived "vital interests" of both superpowers are engaged there, which is not the case in, for example, Central America or Afghanistan.

And the policies of the regional states are out of control (unlike the situation within say, Nato or the Warsaw Pact). The world saw the United States and the Soviet Union come close to collision in the final days of the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973, and one of the few rays of light in the present Gulf crisis is that, for the moment, both superpowers appear to share an interest in damping down the flames.

Against the background of intense diplomatic activity at the United Nations and US naval involvement in the Gulf, it is perhaps useful to rehearse some of the main features of the Iran-Iraq conflict and put them into the perspective of events.

The respective strategies of the contestants have diverged sharply since the initial Iraqi attack pierced out in 1981 and Iran moved to the offensive. For more than five years Iraq has been desperate for peace at almost any price short of the Iranian demand for the removal of President Saddam Hussein. Hence, Iraq's strategy has been to internationalize the conflict in order to maximize external pressure on Iran to negotiate.

Iran's strategy has been the opposite, namely to localize the war so that it can get on without outside interference with the business of grinding down Iraqi resistance by means of attritional ground offensives.

The attitude of each side to the war at sea differs correspondingly. Iraq has been effectively landlocked since the port of Basra and the Shatt-al-Arab were closed at the outset of hostilities. Its oil exports go by pipeline to Mediterranean and Red Sea terminals and imports enter by road. Iran depends on the sea for its oil exports and for a substantial proportion of its imports.

It was against this background that Iraq, with nothing to lose, initiated attacks on shipping in the Gulf in 1983 and has kept them up ever since. Its purpose being, in combination with bombing Iranian oil terminals, to weaken the Iranian economy and to engage outside powers by creating a threat to the freedom of navigation.

Iran, with no interest in turning



WALISS

the waters of the Gulf into a battleground, has responded with a strategy of retaliation against, in the absence of Iraqi targets, the shipping of Iraq's Arab paymasters, particularly the most vulnerable, the object being to induce them to restrain Baghdad.

Therefore, if Iraq obeys the Security Council ceasefire demand and stops bombing Iranian oil terminals and shipping plying to and from Iranian ports, the Iranians are unlikely to initiate attacks on shipping of whatever flag or nationality. They have nothing to gain and everything to lose by doing so, and the chances are that, for all the warlike rhetoric and dramatic publicity of the past few days, tranquility will descend on the Gulf.

However, it would be over-optimistic to assume that this is what will happen. The first reactions of the parties to the Security Council resolution were predictable - Iraq positive, Iran dismissive. And Iraq will probably demonstrate virtue by refraining from attacking shipping until

Iran's considered reaction on the ground is clear. However, there is no reason to suppose that Iran has modified its determination to topple Saddam Hussein or its view that the Security Council is pro-Iraqi and dominated by satanic superpowers.

Thus, although Iran would welcome a respite at sea, it is hard to envisage it calling a halt to the sporadic probes and attritional assaults along the land front. If these continue, Iraq will of course feel free to resume the tanker war. The Security Council will then be faced with the far more difficult and potentially divisive task of considering measures such as a mandatory arms embargo.

Meanwhile, as world attention is glued to the spectacle of US warships escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers, an historic milestone has been passed in the Gulf. From the early 19th century until less than 20 years ago the British protective presence kept the waters of the Gulf free from great-power rivalry and Russian (first Tsarist, then Soviet) penetration.

This wall has now been breached. The Kuwaiti request for reflagging of its tankers by the Soviet Union and the United States has finally brought East-West competition into the arena: for there can be little doubt that it was in a mutually competitive spirit that each acceded to the request. For the first time, Russian warships have been operationally deployed in the Gulf.

Admittedly, the two superpowers are for the moment on the same track but, in the longer term, I wonder if it will prove possible to eliminate the East-West dimension from this area of such crucial interest to the West. The Soviet Union has for 25 years been slowly and patiently working towards expanding its influence in the Gulf, first by establishing diplomatic relations with Kuwait and, more recently, with Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Now it has added a naval presence. Is it likely to go away?

The more immediate danger is that of an exchange of blows between Iran and the US naval and air forces escorting the tankers. Although the logic of Iranian strategy dictates that Iran would not initiate such an exchange, provided that Iraqi attacks on shipping are not renewed, in the overheated atmosphere logic is not a perfect guide.

On the one hand Iran has in effect two parallel structures of government, one official and relatively orthodox, one informal and revolutionary. The ardour and passions of the latter often override the reason of the former. In this instance, the high profile and highly publicized armada of the Great Satan must offer a tempting prospect of emotional and trigger-happy Revolutionary Guards who might be careless of instructions issued from Tehran.

On the other hand, America has some heavy costs to settle with revolutionary Iran, from the humiliation of the hostage crisis of 1979-81 to the most recent exposure of the Iran-Contra arms deal. I find it hard to believe that in our history, as more and more passengers take unfair advantage of our giveaway-price, bargain Travelcard and crowd on to our Underground trains - instead of driving to work as they used to, I need hardly remind you, fellow members of the board, that the service is under siege.

"Hear, hear!... Disgraceful!... Shame!"

"As you will have read in the newspapers, we are already planning some small fare rises to deter them, like a £5 minimum for, say, Bond Street to Oxford Circus, plus a £3 penalty for travelling before noon and after 3 o'clock in the afternoon. But will these be enough? Yes, Colonel?"

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"I am told that in Japan, Mr Chairman, they employ men to push people on to the trains and shut the doors. I wonder if the reverse process could not be applied, with railway staff engaged to pull them off?"

"We'll, yes... we have in fact consulted the Ministry of Defence about using the SAS at peak times to avoid overcrowding on the platforms. I understand that the best place to catch people is when they're stepping off the escalators, if you grab them just slightly off balance you can spin them round and frog-march them back to the 'up' stairs without much effort. You have your hand up too, I think, Miss Edgeware?"

"I am wondering, Mr Chairman, whether we need do no more than warn people that there are, say, 'black widows' on the station?"

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John Grigg  
Turning a new titles page

The Prime Minister must be establishing something of a record in the length of time between the dissolution of the last parliament and publication of her Dissolution Honours list. Normally it appears at the time a parliament is dissolved, or very soon after, and consists largely of senior figures whose careers in the Commons have just come to an end.

Until the end of Lord Home's premiership it was more or less automatic for anyone who had been a Cabinet minister to receive a hereditary viscountcy. Lord Watkinson, who was made a viscount in 1964, is one of the last to have been so rewarded under the old predictable system.

When Harold Wilson became prime minister the creation of new hereditary peerages ceased, though plentiful use was made of Harold Macmillan's new institution of life peerages. (Until the 1958 Life Peerages Act the only life peers were the Law Lords). The ban on hereditary creation was maintained by Edward Heath, James Callaghan and - until 1983 - Margaret Thatcher.

Four years ago the principle, at any rate, of new hereditary peerages was restored when hereditary viscountcies were conferred on William Whitelaw and George Thomas (Lord Tonyandyp). But neither case involved the likely transmission of the title, since Lord Tonyandyp is unmarried and Lord Whitelaw's children are daughters (disqualified for UK peerages except by special remainder).

In 1984, however, Mrs Thatcher went the whole hog when she recommended Harold Macmillan for a hereditary earldom, which his grandson, the present Lord Stockton, inherited at his death. So far this instance is unique in recent years, with the royal exception of the Duke of York. But will Mrs Thatcher go further towards restoring hereditary peerages in her Dissolution list? Uncertainty and hesitation on her part may help to explain its long-delayed appearance.

Another problem may be what to do about Lord Hailsham. His nearly 12 years as Lord Chancellor alone represent a strong claim to an earldom, and a further consideration is that he was a serious candidate for the premiership in 1963. Unfortunately his assault on the summit involved disclaiming his hereditary viscountcy, and the legislation permitting him to do this (the 1963 Peerage Act) debars him from receiving another hereditary peerage. To make him hereditary Earl of Hailsham, the law would have to be changed.

All this serves to show what a grotesque muddle the whole thing has become. It was bad enough before the changes introduced during the Macmillan regime, but they have made it far worse - save only in establishing the principle of female membership of the House of Lords.

The Life Peerages Act was a disaster because its effect has been to aggravate something of a record of a House whose hereditary members, also, are entitled to sit for life. Either way, permanent tenure of a seat in Parliament is surely, indefensible. Members of the House of Lords should sit either *ex officio* (like the Church of England bishops) or for a fixed term: say, ten or fifteen years.

The 1963 Peerage Act was equally disastrous, because it failed to draw the necessary distinction between the constitutional and the merely titular aspects of a peerage. The correct solution to the problem raised by the Wedgwood Benn case would have been to put all peerages on the footing of Irish peerages. Irish peers have no right to sit in the House of Lords, but do have the ordinary rights of citizens, including eligibility for the Commons (Lord Palmerston, for example).

There is a case against hereditary titles, but the case against hereditary seats in Parliament is immeasurably stronger, and the two should not be confused - as they are in the 1963 Act. If hereditary peerages could be created without the corollary of hereditary political privilege, there would be less difficulty about restoring them.

The system will have to be thoroughly overhauled one day, and the sooner the better. And when the time comes there are other relevant reforms that must not be shirked. The inheritance of titles should cease to discriminate, as it does now (except in Scotland), against women. Why should Lord Whitelaw's peerage have to die with him simply because his offspring are female?

Special remainders are occasionally given, as to the late Lord Mountbatten, so that daughters can inherit. But this is an invidious arrangement. At the very least inheritance of a peerage should follow the same rule that now governs inheritance of the Throne. In the absence of a male heir the daughter of a sovereign can inherit, as our present Queen did. It seems only fair that the same principle should apply to peerages, though it would be fairer still, in both instances, if the eldest-child were to inherit, regardless of sex.

Sexual equality also requires one change in favour of men - that the male consorts of peeresses in their own right should share the title, as female consorts now do. If and when Mrs Thatcher becomes the 1st Countess of Grantham, she would surely wish to share the title with Denis.

Hereditary titles are an anachronism, like much else that we cherish, and encourage petty snobbery. But they are also picturesque and relatively harmless. We have to make up our minds about them, one way or the other. If they are to stay, there should be no inhibition about creating new ones.

The author disclaimed a peerage in 1963.

however... Henry Stanhope  
How to unblock those Tubes

"Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming to this emergency meeting of London Regional Transport. We are, as you know, facing the gravest crisis in our history, as more and more passengers take unfair advantage of our giveaway-price, bargain Travelcard and crowd on to our Underground trains - instead of driving to work as they used to, I need hardly remind you, fellow members of the board, that the service is under siege."

"Hear, hear!... Disgraceful!... Shame!"

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"I am wondering, Mr Chairman, whether we need do no more than warn people that there are, say, 'black widows' on the station?"

"Er, really, Miss Edgeware? You don't, er, think that perhaps this

might land us in hot water with the race relations lobby? Not to mention the Equal Opportunities whastis? "

"I was referring to spiders, Mr Chairman."

"Ah, do forgive me Miss Edgeware. But in fact we have already tried announcing that enormous snakes are loose on the Circle line - as well as using posters on the escalators asking 'Do you feel constricted and uncomfortable? But people assumed they were ads for a pop group or a new kind of brassiere.'"

"We could threaten to close down the service altogether."

"Yes, we have of course already had to shut some stations in the rush hour, to stop people falling on the line. Stage Two would be to close the entire Northern line and so on, and make people walk through the tunnels. That should teach them."

"Hear, hear!"

"We estimate that by using the tunnels for pedestrians only, we would save 1,000 cubic feet per man-mile, thus considerably increasing our capacity during the rush hour."

"Would not this entail switching the power off, Mr Chairman?"

"I fear so, yes, Alderman Glasnost. If one of the stup... I mean, unfortunately, passengers happened to tread on a live rail, it might black out central London."

"Quite."

"We have thought of promoting the idea of a keep-fit campaign, perhaps with martial music in each station as they pass - and prizes for the first man from Notting Hill to Bank... stages in between - yellow jersey, that sort of thing."

"Most imaginative, Mr Chairman. Do you know, I travelled here on the District line today, just to see what it was like - and had to stand all the way from Sloane Square to Victoria!"

"Good Lord, Mrs Stanmore. Jones. Were you, er, safe? Didn't you fall over?"

"Well, they had these straps which people hold on to you know - quite a good idea really."

"Well, that underlines the urgency of the situation, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. A very useful meeting if I may say so. Now, anyone like a lift in the Rolls?"

Will the family court win its case with costs?

nance, custody and access - would, many say, go far towards remedying defects in the system.

In 1984 divorce proceedings alone accounted for 145,000 couples who between them had 149,000 children under 16: a total of 440,000 people.

The present system with its overlapping jurisdictions is complex, fragmented and confused. The Family Courts Campaign, an umbrella group for some 100 organizations and individuals, describes it as a "nightmare". "There are no less than 20 ways in which a child can come into local authority care," it says.

All this means delay, costs, inadequate, inconsistent and ineffective treatment of family matters and militates against judges and magistrates developing family law expertise. Above all the formal atmosphere and adversarial procedures are thought ill-suited to deal with sensitive disputes involving personal relations.

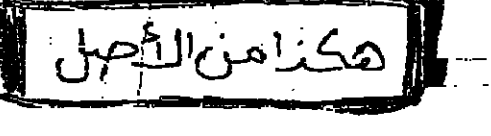
Elsewhere family courts have got off the ground. In New Zealand, where they came in in 1981, there has been a "dramatic reduction in the number of custody cases which actually proceed through to the traditional blood-testing of a court hearing", according to Judge Peter Trapski, Chief Justice. The courts are non-adversarial and informal (no wigs or robes) and everyone stays seated. Central to the system is a conciliation service through which couples are helped to resolve disputes away from the court and a mediation conference with a family court judge.

In Australia the family court, now 11 years old, is not working as well as it could. But the problem, the lawyers say, is that it is overworked and under-funded. It is concerned about potential costs here, too, that has been the chief obstacle to a family court.

Both the Law Society and Family Courts Campaign have said that in the long term there could be financial savings. But it is only now when the momentum for a family court has reached the pitch that has officials are doing some detailed calculations.

Mr Gerald Kaufman is shadow Foreign Secretary, not shadow Defence Secretary, as described on this page yesterday.

Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CREDIT RISK

The election debate over the economy would undoubtedly have been livelier had the trade figures for May been instantly available. Mr Roy Hattersley hoped that the statistics released during the campaign would justify his charge that apparent economic prosperity was merely an unsustainable bubble of credit. The modest surplus that emerged for April left his charge looking flat. The sudden slide to a £560 million deficit, accompanied by a fall in exports, would have provided live ammunition and would certainly have hit financial markets much more than the combination of Monday's credit worries and the trade figures has this week.

Beyond the frenetic atmosphere of an election campaign, it is possible, as well as fair, to revive the time-honoured caveat that not too much should be read into any one month's figures. After all, the first five months of 1987 have still produced an unexpected overall surplus of £200 million.

In his Budget statement, the Chancellor forecast an overall deficit for the year of £2.5 billion without provoking a mass exodus of gnomes or, indeed, more than judiciously raised eyebrows among a financial community far more concerned about the Government's election prospects. Doubters were not looking to Mr Hattersley for more responsible economic management.

As yet, there is no cause to revise the budget forecast upwards — though more optimistic recent private and semi-official projections will need looking at again. And the basic explanation of the expected deterioration in the trade balance remains, as it was, that the British economy continues to grow faster than the unsatisfactory snail-like rate of most other leading economies.

It remains axiomatic, however, that the happy and unaccustomed sight of the British economy growing faster than our traditionally more successful competitors cannot continue for long if growth is led by consumption and spending on private credit rather than productivity and investment. The supply side of the economy is still gaining in strength. Productivity growth has not dried up and investment is improving. But the potentially fatal flaw in Mr Nigel Lawson's conduct of the economy is now becoming more evident. The explosion of credit in the past two years is fully comparable in scale with that preceding the 1974 crash.

The credit boom is inextricably linked with the rapid rise in share prices and, particularly,

in house prices in the south east. It has not, however, yet led to any discernible rise in underlying inflation. Nor has it, as then, been based on unsustainably low interest rates. Rather, sterling interest rates have remained obstinately and damagingly higher than others. The boom does not yet, therefore, carry in it an inevitable bust.

It is inevitable, however, that the rise in asset prices, if unchecked, will spread into other markets. The simultaneous rise in imports and fall in exports behind the May trade gap would, if sustained, soon offer the financial markets enough evidence of overheated spending to put the pound under pressure. That would either force yet another retreat to higher interest rates or allow inflation to be imported through the exchanges in a way that was not evident when sterling fell with oil prices last year.

There is also pressure on wages. That is not so evident in the traditional run of higher union pay settlements. It appears through market forces as pay has to be adjusted to meet labour shortages. More subtly, it can be seen in demands for regional pay differentials so that workers in the south-east can meet their inflated mortgage payments at the expense of those in areas where asset inflation has not taken hold.

Caution is therefore needed in government policy. Recent trends will certainly have overhung yesterday's cabinet meeting on public spending. Mr Nicholas Ridley's announcement of a rate support grant and local authority spending target slightly above previous plans for 1988-89 is just one example of the continuing pressures on spending. Further tax cuts, for all their very great desirability, may have to wait.

Yet the weakness in policy does not lie with the generally disciplined growth of public spending, still less with the tight borrowing targets. Mr Lawson has combined a tight fiscal policy with lax control of the money supply. That imbalance is now showing increasingly damaging side effects.

By retreating from any but the narrowest of monetary targets, he has virtually abandoned effective control of credit. The Chancellor should now reassert discipline over credit, either through interest rates or through Bank of England controls that come to grips with the freer world of housing finance and credit card spending. Otherwise, he will put the continuing and readily sustainable growth of a fundamentally strong economy at risk.

### IS SPAIN A GOOD ALLY?

There are times when the United States must feel that it is easier to deal with its enemies than its friends. At a moment when most of the allies are preoccupied with the withdrawal of missiles from Europe, in Spain they are more concerned with the removal of American aircraft from Madrid. It looked last night as if the first of these two issues might be settled rather more easily than the second.

The four US military bases in Spain have long been a sensitive issue. They were installed under an agreement which was made between President Eisenhower and General Franco 34 years ago and have thus ever since been identified with the Franco regime. Spain is also a long way from NATO's front line — long enough for the Spanish people to feel no immediate threat from Eastern Europe. In consequence, the bases seem unnecessary.

During last year's referendum when Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez was campaigning for a "yes" vote to stay in NATO, he promised to negotiate a reduction of the American military presence as a *quid pro quo* for the electorate. The latter, having given him what he wanted, now expect him to fulfil his side of the "bargain."

It is the base at Torrejon with its 72 F-16s outside Madrid which has aroused most anti-American passion. One reason for this is undoubtedly the ease with which peace demonstrators from the capital can get there. The Pentagon has proposed that the aircraft should be moved to another base, but the suggestion has been peremptorily dismissed. The Spanish government wants them out of Spain altogether.

The present defence agreement between the United States and Spain expires next year. This means in effect that the issue has to be settled by November. Failure to do so would expose the Americans to the threat that their submarine base at Rota (the most important of all the bases) might be closed. This gives them not much time to reach a compromise — and so far progress towards one has been nil.

If the F-16s are forced to abandon Torrejon it would not be of the utmost seriousness for NATO. They might still find an alternative base in Portugal — where the new government might welcome the US dollars. But it would do no good for the internal strength of NATO.

The United States is involved in a not dissimilar argument with Greece — and must sometimes regard NATO's southern flank with dismay. At a time when the country is sensitive over anti-Americanism in Europe the continuous fruitless bickering with Madrid can hardly encourage enthusiasm in Washington for its commitment to spend its defence money over here.

It is hard to believe that Gonzalez could not have found some compromise on the bases issue. Perhaps he could still do so — and is working towards that end. But as the months go by he is making this more difficult by raising expectations on the question.

The alternative that he is offering the Americans is for the Spanish air force to take over the F-16s' role. Few believe it can provide an adequate substitute, and Lord Carrington, who was in Madrid yesterday in his capacity as NATO's Secretary-General, is one of those who remain deeply sceptical.

The Spaniards are reluctant even to join NATO's military command structure, partly because of their grievance over Gibraltar. The most they are ready to offer is a formula for co-ordinating their own defence forces with those of the alliance. It was to discuss such a formula that Lord Carrington has spent the last 48 hours in Madrid.

The Spanish government should be made well aware that it is creating unnecessary problems for the alliance and for itself. It will stand to lose rather than gain by the eviction of the Americans from Torrejon. Rapid agreement on a formula of the kind now being discussed is the least, not the most, that it should offer. Otherwise the alliance, as well as the Americans, might lose patience with its latest awkward member.

### RACE FOR THE FUTURE

The EEC's Research and Development Framework Programme has been finally agreed. After months of bitter debate and a Brussels European Council where it became tangled with arguments about Community finance, British concerns about value for money and relevance to the needs of industry have largely been met.

The impression has once again been created that the Government cares little for research in general. It is in the nature of scientific inquiry that one may never know what is lost by the programmes that have been cut. But at least the programmes of research which were clearly related to the needs of industry were spared. 40 per cent of the total is now taken up by the information technology venture, ESPRIT, and development in advanced telecommunications technologies.

RACE is one of the more popular EEC programmes both in Whitehall and within those British industrial companies, GEC, Plessey and Racal, which stand to benefit from it. It deals with advanced research into optical fibres and opto-electronic technology — the basis for our visual communications of the future. It will pave the way, among other things, to video-telephones and one of its most

important aims is the setting up of networks of compatible equipment throughout Europe. The UK is fairly advanced in the basic technologies involved. British companies are well-placed both to win a large slice of the contracts under the RACE programme and to benefit from a European scale market for the developed products.

The Government's new plans for the research councils, announced at about the same time, endorsed a more thorough UK exploitation of the opportunities offered by EEC collaborative research. British scientists, it says, already contribute to and benefit from EEC research on a significant scale. A closer involvement of the Research Councils in the planning of EEC programmes would help to ensure that national and European priorities converged more easily. Both the national and EEC programmes should benefit from that approach.

British determination to fight such a prolonged battle on the EEC plans has left wounds which will take some time to heal. RACE is the sort of project which should be able to give European collaboration a good name. There is no time to be wasted if Europe is to keep up with US and Japanese competition.

### Deployment of school resources

From the Deputy General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Your leader on the state of English schools (July 22) is a hotchpotch of logical inconsistencies.

The school inspectors express concern that resources are inadequately deployed within schools. The Times responds by promoting further devolution of large sums of money to head teachers, who are not being offered the necessary training and time to discharge an accounting role.

The Times cites a Solihull pilot scheme as saving £200,000 per year. It conspicuously fails to mention schemes which have proved unworkably complex, as in Cambridgeshire, or run into deficit.

Far from narrowing gaps in provision, as you claim, local finance management tends to magnify disparity. New, well maintained schools will have more disposable income to spend on quality books and equipment or extra teachers. Older, run-down schools with structural problems, such as flat roofs, asbestos and antiquated central heating, will be forced to choose between repairs to the fabric of the building or teachers to "deliver" the new national curriculum.

Your claims for the national curriculum as a further *non sequitur*. Setting attainment targets does not ensure the delivery of a national curriculum. It simply provides a crude measure of success or failure for individual pupils. To ensure delivery of a broad, balanced national curriculum you need an adequate supply of teachers properly trained and qualified for the subjects chosen

for inclusion in the national scheme.

It is dishonest to set national attainment targets for maths and science, for example, until the national shortage of qualified teachers in maths and science has been remedied. Similarly, pupils must have access to high quality books and materials if the national curriculum is to have any practical meaning.

To imply, finally, that a third of the teaching force is of poor quality and that the same third is responsible for strikes and disruption is an unjustified slur which cannot be sustained by reference to the inspectors' report of visits conducted during a period of relative industrial calm, but continuing low morale and under-resourcing.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUG McAVOY,  
Deputy General Secretary,  
National Union of Teachers,  
Hamilton House,  
Mabledon Place, WC1,  
July 22.

From Mr Patrick Howarth  
Sir, You describe the inspectors' estimate that one-third of the members of the teaching profession are incompetent as "an appalling statistic". Is it?

Surely a conscientious assessment of members of other professions, e.g. the law, medicine, accountancy and the Church, would produce similar results.

"Professional men who persistently blunder, happily thrive and seldom go under."

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK HOWARTH,  
108 Sheen Court,  
Richmond, Surrey,  
July 22.

### Charges on charities

From Mr Russell Vallance

Sir, The Green Paper on the criticisms of the Green Paper on community charges (report, July 15) indicated that the proposals might cost the Church of England some £4 million. He also expressed concern about the apparent intention to make no special arrangements for charities in the new scheme.

At present, charities may claim 50 per cent rates relief as a matter of right and may be allowed additional relief at the discretion of the local authority. This system recognises that charities are non-profit organisations operating for the public good and should not therefore be subjected to taxation as if they were commercial companies. The discretionary element also allows recognition of the role of some charities in providing local community services.

The Cabinet Office scrutiny team, under the chairmanship of Sir Philip Woodfield, has this month put a figure to the value of rates relief to charities. They estimate the figure at £120 million per year. If no special arrange-

ments are to be made, and allowing for the possibility of a lower business rate, then it is reasonable to assume that charities may have to pay between £100 million and £120 million extra each year under the new system.

Putting these figures in proportion, charities in the worst instance would need each year to raise more than the combined voluntary income of Oxfam, Save the Children Fund, the National Trust and the Red Cross to meet the new community charges. If the lower figure were more likely, charities would need each year to raise nearly double the proceeds of the original Band Aid promotion just to pay community charges.

Unless criticisms like those of the Bishop of London are heeded, then perhaps the true losers in the rates vs. community charge argument will be starving children in Africa and other charity beneficiaries.

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL VALLANCE,  
Ravenshurst,  
6 Eggar's Hill,  
Aldershot, Hampshire.

### Cost of Lambeth

From the Secretary to the Lambeth Conference

Sir, Your leader under the above heading (July 20) draws attention not just to the "departure from realism" but to the shift from the community to the individual. Your quotations from leaders of all parties show how far the moral atmosphere has changed. People are already talking of the "elbow society" as individuals compete to survive.

To lose our sense of the nation as being a community where we are also "members one of another" would be a disaster sufficient to eclipse Mrs Thatcher's many achievements.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BOWES,  
St Albans Vicarage,  
21 Canowie Road,  
Bristol, Avon.

### Any socialists now?

From the Reverend John Bowes

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Bristol, Avon.

### Water research

From the President of The Linnean Society of London and others  
Sir, The present difficulties of the Freshwater Biological Association have been aggravated by the Government's policy of requiring quantifiable benefits from publicly funded research institutes.

The FBA is an independent organization receiving most of its finance as a grant-in-aid from the Natural Environment Research Council. It has received cuts in its funding similar to those of the other NERC-funded institutes, and since its commissioned income (i.e., "earned", in contrast to basic science money) is small relative to the science budget component, the association council has found it necessary to warn about a third of its scientists that they may have to be made redundant.

Damage to the FBA could have a widespread and deleterious "knock-on" effect because of the underpinning that it provides to freshwater research and services in this and other countries by providing identification keys, taxonomic expertise and training. Thames Water alone has estimated that the FBA has saved it over £70 million.

Last year the Cabinet Office produced a report in association with the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development on exploitable areas of science. This specifically recognized that

some areas of science are of potential importance not because of their relevance in terms of direct market applications, but because of other factors such as Government policy, legal constraints, public pressure, etc. Such areas relate particularly to health care, the environment and consumer safety... There is little

### Members' rights in MCC row

From Mr E. W. Swanton

Sir, Today's tendentious article by the former treasurer of MCC, Mr D. G. Clark, conflicting as it does in many respects with the balanced picture of affairs at Lord's presented from time to time by your cricket correspondent, should be read as coming from one who has formed with the former secretary, Mr J. A. Bailey, a two-man stand against the almost unanimous views of successive MCC committees over several years.

May I confine myself to three questions? Mr Clark says that the club's affairs are so complex that committees should take heed of the opinions of secretaries and support them. This is a new concept of the secretary's role. Having given due weight to his views, is it not for the committee to lay down policy and for its officers to pursue it?

Does Mr Clark take this reliance on the secretary to the point of justifying him and Mr Bailey (according to the MCC memorandum) having three times sought counsel's advice without the committee's prior sanction and without informing it afterwards? Again, if he thinks members' rights have been threatened by the Test and County Cricket Board without their being informed —

which I do not personally believe — why did not he as treasurer for the last six years ensure that they were?

Rights, might I add, involve responsibilities, in this case by MCC to the TCCB which it created and to the game as a whole which MCC throughout its history has served so well.

As a member of the MCC committee for 10 years, I have watched with dismay the deterioration of the club's relationships not only with the TCCB but with the other bodies housed at Lord's, Middlesex County Cricket Club and the National Cricket Association. Happily today fences are rapidly being mended — with no erosion whatever of any "rights".

The issues have been those of personalities far more than of policies. The authoritarian Mr Bailey has been an able man in the wrong job.

Yours etc,  
E. W. SWANTON,  
Delf House, Sandwich, Kent,  
July 23.

### ON THIS DAY

JULY 24 1900

Tonga, largest of the Friendly Isles, became a democratic monarchy in the 19th century under King George Tupou I, an outstanding figure in Pacific history, who died in 1893, aged 97. He was succeeded by his great grandson and then by his great great granddaughter, Queen Salote, who won British hearts when attended Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953.

### TONGA AND THE BRITISH PROTECTORATE

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

With the hoisting of the German flag in Samoa on March 1 and the proclamation of a British protectorate over Tonga on May 19 the two principal objects of the Samoa Convention have become fact; and, seeing that the convention was made, without any reference to the wishes of either the Samoans or the Tongans, the two Governments are to be congratulated upon having carried out their wishes without friction with the natives.

Of the two races the Tongans were undoubtedly the harder to deal with. The Samoans, never having had an effective Government or a flag of their own, have no patriotism to be wounded even when they have had time to understand the nature of the change in their circumstances; but the Tongans, accustomed to obey a strong central Government of their own, almost hysterically proud of their flag and their independence, might have been expected to reject a British protectorate with some vehemence. The late Lord Pembroke's description of this interesting people as the "snobs of the Pacific" is scarcely deserved, for their conceit arises rather from a longing to rank as a civilised people than from satisfaction with themselves as they are. Their reception of Captain Cook, which earned for them the name of "Friendly Islanders", is now known to have proceeded from a desire to learn the secret of the white man's superiority, for they had the deliberate intention of taking the ships by force. As early as the 16th century they had invaded islands as distant as Samoa in frail canoes; they were rapidly conquering the whole of Fiji, in war canoes mounted with cannon, when they were checked by the annexation of that colony, and they even despatched an expedition under Baniua, a time for the distant New Hebrides. No sooner were they converted to Christianity than mission teachers of their race were busy in Fiji, New Britain, and New Ireland. Under the guidance of the English missionaries they founded a Parliament upon the English model and law Courts in which the evidence is taken down in shorthand by native clerks. They sing Handel and Mozart in their churches; their cricket teams beat every English naval eleven that has played against them...

The treaty was signed on May 18 and on the following day a proclamation was read in the public square declaring Tonga to be under the protection of Great Britain, and the flag was hoisted on her Majesty's ship Porpoise and saluted with 21 guns. The effect of the Protectorate will be to prevent any other power from entering into relations with Tonga, to bring all foreigners under the jurisdiction of the British Court, and to give us coaling and repairing stations in the two best harbours in the group, if not in the Pacific. The sovereignty of the King will not be disturbed, for nothing would be gained by assuming the administration of the islands. Not an acre of land is held by the Europeans except upon lease; there is no debt; the revenue is about £25,000; and, beyond the tendency to corruption which is common to all native governments, the administration is fairly effective. But it was absolutely necessary to protect the Tongans against the attempt upon them that would undoubtedly have been made before long by one of the Great Powers. These results have been achieved without any sacrifice of the cordial feeling which the Tongans have always felt towards England.

### Heavenly bodies

From Mr Andrew Davidson

Sir, Bernard Levin (July 21) can not be serious in putting forward Marilyn as a contender for the name of a tenth planet.

Scandalous in her wanderings she may have been but nevertheless obviously a star and thus ineligible.

Proserpine — as the wife of the last discovery, Pluto — is all right, but if Mr Levin insists on something that "enshrines our age like a time capsule buried" and would like a connection with Pluto, perhaps Mickey Mouse is the answer?

Yours etc,  
ANDREW DAVIDSON,  
18 Lancaster Grove, NW3,  
July 22.











## Risky play of arms

We have known for some time that sophisticated British weaponry is getting through to the Afghan rebels to help them defend themselves against the Russian occupation. But where is it coming from? When Tam Dayell questioned Geoffrey Howe on the subject in the Commons, Howe side-stepped the question with the comment that "most people will say that we should give thanks that the weapons are getting through to them".

There is all the difference in the world, however, between reading such a story in the Press and seeing it on television. The most extraordinary images in *This Week*

### TELEVISION

(Thames) were of British Blowpipe weapons being gingerly loaded on to pack-horses for their ride across the bumpy Afghan terrain, and then searching out and destroying Russian planes in the sky.

The result has been that the planes now have to fly lower, out of range of the Blowpipe, but right into the range of the Afghan machine-guns.

The programme did not suggest that the British Government paid for the weapons directly. But the Blowpipes are made by Shorts of Belfast, and it is only with our tacit support that they could be bought — probably by the Americans and Saudis, to help in the CIA effort against the Russians.

There was a strong echo of the current fringe hearings in the plausible deniability which Selig Harrison reported the Americans originally insisted on, limiting support to providing weapons which could plausibly have been captured from the Russians. But now they are into it knee-deep, providing their own latest weapons as well as British ones.

The most telling point the programme made was that this technical sophistication increased the terminal dangers of the conflict.

William Holmes

## Sheen like fine silk

Donald Cooper

### OPERA

#### Ravel double bill Glyndebourne

It was part of Ravel's luck as a composer to be given two librettos which precisely suited his gifts: Franc Nohain's *L'Heure espagnole*, where sex is regulated by clockwork, and Colette's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, where adult feeling is allowed to impinge only in bizarre fantasmagoria. The two works are a gift also for Glyndebourne, and with Simon Rattle there to conduct them the musical pleasures are intense: I know that the later opera was a toy-box of inventions, but was not so prepared for the fine subtlety, the whisk and ripple of silk, that Mr Rattle finds in *L'Heure espagnole*. The London Philharmonic Orchestra provide a delectable evening.

On stage things are not quite so perfect. Frank Corsaro's production very much depends, as with his *Love of Three Oranges* for this company, on the designs by Maurice Sendak, who might seem as much made for Ravel as Ravel was for his subjects. However, Mr Sendak is pre-eminently a graphic artist, and in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* his costumes, and hence his characters, do not have the quick life of his sets and of the animated film that plays an important part. The result is often fascinating, but it lacks the unity of vision that was so striking a feature of David Hockney's designs at Covent Garden.

On the other hand, this Sendak-Corsaro version touches the nerve of the work more nearly. Papa is introduced as a character alongside Maman, and these two reappear as the Cats, whose dance is given its full erotic charge by Jenny Weston's choreography and, still more so, by Mr Rattle and the orchestra. The reason for the Child's flight outdoors at this point is left in no doubt.

Other elements, too, are more sinistrally mysterious, like the emergence of the Princess from something like Don Giovanni's hell, while the use of animation for the



All the people as figures on a clock: Thierry Druan (left), Anna Steiger, Rémy Corazza and François Le Roux amid Maurice Sendak's design for *L'Heure espagnole*

Fire and for Arithmetic's dancing numbers is almost sheer delight: it would reach perfection if, as surely must be possible, the speed of projection could be tied electronically to the conductor's beat. There is also a magical and fully successful use of film at the beginning, where the Child's house is discovered in a park of drawn trees and statuary.

The production of *L'Heure espagnole* has no need of such tricks but includes a few too many of its own: this is self-evidently a work in which all the people are as figures on a clock; it is not necessary to

make them literally such. Besides, the ballet of puppets gets in the way of some of the most exquisite music in the score, particularly at the beginning. But none of this disturbs a beautiful central performance by Anna Steiger, who realizes Concepcion's sensual wit brightly and her wily sensuality with a beguilingly slippery smoothness.

François Le Roux is properly simple as the handyman who lands on his feet, or on some other part, and Thierry Druan romances prettily as the poet: he returns as a florid Tea-pot and manic Arithmetic in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

Here Cynthia Buchanan sings and stamps her foot with winning charm as the Child: she shows more of vulnerable sensitivity than the potentiality of evil, which makes her avoidance of disturbing emotion the more plausible. At the same time, the presence of adult depth is very much suggested by Fiona Kimm's rich, dark Mother. Others in the cast include Malcolm Walker, vocally sinuous as the Father in feline and horological disguises, and Lillian Watson flaming brilliantly as the Fire and Nightingale.

Paul Griffiths

## Subtle use of space

#### Irving Wardle finds fresh departures in Peter Gill's new play *Mean Tears* opening at the Cottesloe

Although they are having an affair, Stephen and Julian do not live together. Stephen would be glad to settle for secure monogamy, but his partner is a bisexual butterfly, who fears his wings may drop off if not put to regular use. First, he takes flight for the homely Celia, and then for the classy

### THEATRE

Neil, always fluttering back for comfort to Stephen, who finally snaps and assaults him with a knife, before bleakly concluding that Julian is a person who "won't be loved".

Peter Gill's new play — in contrast to his other recent work — is a modern metropolitan piece with a clear plot-line. Gill, however, remains a writer whose signature is to be discerned as much from what he leaves out as what he puts in; and *Mean Tears* displays the customary tell-tale gaps.

In spite of occasional references to characters taking an afternoon off, there are no clues on what they do for a living, nor on the circumstances that brought them together. Their present existence is an empty slate compared with their detailed recollections of family life. You can infer something of their off-stage lives and the play's frame of reference from Alison Chitty's Pop-art back wall, with its giant telephone and garish book-spines (Winicott, Rilke and Balzac's *Lost Illusions*), but the stage action focuses exclusively on personal relationships, and even those are confined to a trace of lust.

Gill, in other words, is writing about the responsibilities that spring up in the wake of physical pleasure; and he



Karl Johnson's strongly imagined performance as Stephen

drives this home in one scene where Julian gives Stephen a recording of *Fidelio* and asks what it is about. "Freedom and constancy", says Stephen. As Julian hates opera and is passing on the unwanted gift of a discarded girlfriend, you can see where he figures in that moral equation. Not that it needs pointing out, and as the plot consists of a duet between loyalty and inconstancy, supported only by the under-characterized roles of the two girls and one all-purpose confidant, it hardly offers sufficient material for a two-and-a-half-hour show.

That is to reckon without Gill's mastery, both as director and writer, of stage space. The production is set on a bare raked floor, dark blue apart from one small area that is scrubbed down to the timber. That is Stephen's zone which he shares with his books, chess-set and bottles of pills. Julian rarely enters it; and in Gill's meticulous choreography, where distances between actors seem to have been decided to the last millimetre, invisible frontiers sprout all over that vacant expanse, reflecting the forces of attraction and repulsion. The same process operates in the text, which shows characters using words to claim psychological space or "take" possession of someone else's, either with bursts of arbitrary aggression, abrupt changes of the subject or declaratory appeals for sympathy.

Why anyone as naively greedy as Julian should exert such inflexible attraction remains an unanswered question. But he certainly casts a theatrical spell in Bill Night's performance: a rubbery golden boy, restlessly circling the floor as if on a skate-board, doubling up under unwelcome questions as if impaled on a spear, and combining hysterical declarations of freedom with nastily winning demands for approval and permission for things he is going to do anyway. No performance as varied and fully inhabited as this can be reduced to flat moral judgement.

Karl Johnson plays Stephen as a sensible older man consciously going through an experience he will later recall with a shudder: a strongly imagined performance which does not quite explain why he puts up with it.

### PROMENADE CONCERTS

#### New London Consort/Pickett St Paul's, Knightsbridge/Radio 3

Twelfth-century manuscripts give very little away: a vague indication of relative pitch and textual underlay (if you are lucky), but nothing about rhythm, harmony, instrumentation, dynamics. So there is really no such thing as "authenticity" here; a little can be deduced, but much must be wild surmise. The question is: how wild do you get?

Philip Pickett's reconstructions of the *Carmina Burana* and other medieval dance-songs are very wild. Out of unpromising smudges of neumes he contrives solidly proportioned fantasies for voices (often in parallel harmony or in antiphonal refrain), obsessively rhythmic drones, swirling instrumental descants, ornate preludes, dramatic stampedes of percussion, even a feverish acrobatic. Then the individual numbers are grouped into larger structures, so that the more ascetic nature of sacred conductus jostles with erotic

material, bawdy or courtly. Pickett's bold "fleshy out" may not all be right, but it never sounds incongruous. More important, it is a richly entertaining approach, as this brilliant late-night Prom by the New London Consort demonstrated.

The instrumental execution was enthralling. One thinks particularly of Paavo Berglund's exotic velle cadenzas — replete with soulful trills and folkish portamenti — or some of the syncretized percussion work. A medieval xylophone was an inspired choice to lighten the dance of death "Ad mortem festinamus". The singing, too, had a persuasive robustness. Catherine Bott led the dance-song "A l'entrada" with some clever changes of emphasis, while Michael George conveyed appropriate depth of lust in the one piece by a named composer: Raimbaut de Vaqueiras's "Kaleida Maya".

So many of these songs are about spring, the renewal of life and love — not surprising, when one considers how few springtimes a 12th-century composer could reasonably expect to enjoy. That is the melancholy side of the medieval coin, which was never explored here. Moments of fragility, tenderness or intimacy, among all the jigs, would have provided some telling contrasts.

Richard Morrison

accounted for the tame performance. Beethoven's delicious concerto miniature for bassoon and oboe was included, though: Simon Butterworth, in their *pas de deux* for the prima ballerina. One of the delights of this extended overture was the highly musical, dignified playing of Raymond Loxton, as he supported the string soft underbelly of sound. He enjoyed his well-deserved solo at the end of Bartók's Third Piano Concerto.

But the soloist proper was John Lill: his deft, slim araves and the orchestra's restrained playing placed together clearly and decisively the jigsaw of the first movement. In the central Adagio, it was the BBCPO's woodwind soloists who contributed every bit as much to Bartók's "night music" as Lill did by his limpid dropping of every note into its place.

For Dvorák's great Seventh Symphony, Klee's tendency to restraint was not quite so welcome. It was a lightweight performance. Even so it had the virtue of supporting and maintaining Dvorák's identity in the midst of echoes of Brahms and Wagner, which can sometimes muffle the composer's own breathing.

Hilary Finch

## Lovely lesson

### JAZZ

#### Stan Getz/Branford Marsalis Festival Hall

Jazz used to be about the personal signature, and becoming a jazz fan meant learning to identify the individual voice. Johnny Hodges's peach-complexioned glide and Sidney Bechet's wild-eyed vibrato, Art Blakey's snickety rim-shots and Errol Garner's tiesties and left-hand chords. Nowadays, in this post-modern world, I am not so sure. Having run up against the buffers at the end of the freedom line, young musicians seem to be putting their emphasis elsewhere.

Wednesday evening's con-

cert in the JVC/Capitol Radio Jazz Parade series provided the perfect example. Branford Marsalis is a marvellously talented young saxophonist whose respect for the past and interest in the future are balanced with a care that ought to delight any critic. He and his sparkling trio (Kenny Kirkland on piano, Delbert Felix on bass and Lewis Nash on drums) moved with impressive confidence from the Coltranesque incantations of "Solstice" through a playful two-speed hard-bop version of "Cherokee" to a treatment of another standard, "I Thought About You", in which the leader employed a breathy vibrato on his tenor that paid homage to the ballad style of Coleman Hawkins and Don Byas. On an affectionate single-chorus reading of Thelonious Monk's "Crepuscule with Nellie" they avoided the usual kind of improvisation, animating the piece solely through the quality of their phrasing.

Marsalis is, in short, both a complete saxophonist and a complete jazz musician. It is no fault of his that when Stan Getz took the stage for the second half of the concert we realized what we had been missing.

In his teens, more than 40 years ago, Getz began to develop his sound. He found it, stayed with it, and as a result is now a landmark as unmistakable as the Sphinx. When you hear the saxophone solo in Dusty Springfield's "The Look of Love" or the theme to the *Pink Panther* cartoons, you know you are hearing someone imitating Stan Getz — the ultimate compliment.

Blithe, light-grained, all breath and reed, changing his shading like a cornfield under summer clouds, Getz's unique sound is as unimpaired as the remainder of his musical faculties. Parading his A team (Kenny Barron on piano, Rufus Reid on bass and Victor Lewis on drums), he played superlative bebop on the chords of "What Is This Thing Called Love", following up with a sleeky shot-silk blues featuring Reid's extraordinary dexterity and a handful of ballads.

Of these last, Mal Waldron's "Soul Eyes" created the sort of mood that you wanted to carry all the way home. Jazz needs dedicated young men like Branford Marsalis, but it will not survive as a living art if the supply of Stan Getzes dries up.

Richard Williams

### ROCK

#### Terence Trent D'Arby Hammersmith Odeon

Watching the painfully thin, deadlocked figure of the 25-year-old Terence Trent D'Arby, jittering about the stage like a grasshopper imitating the dance steps of James Brown and Michael Jackson, it was hard to believe that he was once a corporal in the American army. During the long, stumbling announcements of his songs, however, he swore with the habitual ease of a trooper, which in turn belied his strict New York Pentecostal upbringing.

Since his arrival as an adoptive Briton, great claims have been made on behalf of this rapidly rising star, many of them by D'Arby himself, and, with his debut album straight in at No 1 this week, such faith has been vindicated in part.

With an efficient backing band, the Bojangles, in tow he mustered a fair stab at the bulk of *Introducing the Hard Line*. His unusual voice, capable at times of combining a gravelly croak with a piercing falsetto, tended to sound strained, and he rarely achieved a resonance that elevated the performance above the level of teen fodder. The bluesy *frisson* to "Seven More Days" and the sensual ballad "Sign Your Name" indicated only that he is a "soul singer" in much the same way that Sade is a "jazz singer".

At the climax of the show, having delighted the crowd with his two hits, "Wishing Well" and "If You Let Me Stay", he tackled Smokey Robinson's "Who's Loving You" as an angry song, but without sustaining this emotional slant, and then spent far too long indulging in an a cappella "As Yet Untitled" and, accompanied only by guitar, Sam Cooke's "Wonderful World".

The initiative was regained by a gaudy encore of the Jagger/Richards composition "Under My Thumb" that doubtless did nothing for his credibility, but mitigated in part the impression of an artist with an inflated sense of his own ability.

David Sinclair

● The South Bank Centre, as part of Summerscope, is this year presenting "Advance Warning", a two-week festival in the Purcell Room starting on Monday, designed to give Londoners a sample of the best of the Edinburgh Fringe entertainment.



Emerging into prominence: Fiona Chadwick, Jonathan Cope

### DANCE

#### Pursuit Covent Garden

Ashley Page's new work was premiered on Wednesday as part of the Royal Ballet's Paul Hamlyn week, which for the second year running is bringing people to Covent Garden who have never been there before. The music is by Colin Matthews, an extension of his *Sans Dance*, first given in 1985 as a London Sinfonietta commission and repeated by them at a Prom only this week, when Stephen Pettitt on this page commented on its vibrant Dionysian impulse and its many layers of activity.

For the ballet Matthews has increased the number of players from 10 to 16 and has added a slow beginning and ending to what he himself describes as the "relentlessly fast" original score. He has also broken up the fast central section with two further moments of calm. The outcome is less Dionysian but more complex.

This is not music you can readily dance to in the sense of matching step and note, but in a week when Merce Cunningham and John Cage are performing in London the dissociation of music and dance should come as no surprise. Page does not follow their policy of keeping the two arts entirely separate except in the time they occupy. Rather he describes his dancers as giving chase to the music —

hence, presumably, the ballet's title.

Structurally the choreography takes further the kind of fragmented movement that Page employed in *Carmen Arcadique* for Ballet Rambert last year. Snatches of quick movement pass across from one dancer to another and curiously, because it is not sustained by any individual, the impression of speed is lost. The movement struck me at first sight as being less adventurous and physically daring than some of the work Page had done on smaller stages with non-classical dancers.

For his model of classicism he seems to have taken Ashton's *Scènes de ballet*, accentuating a kind of brittle austerity but catching also something of its springy urgency. This is mixed with an occasional humorous touch in the ensembles which more than once reminded me of a less obvious inspiration, Cranko's *Card Game*. It makes an unexpected, not unpleasant, mixture; whether *Pursuit* will have the durability of either of these I am not sure.

A problem with the ballet is that although Jack Smith's bright, simple costumes are attractive, almost turning the dancers into Bauhaus dolls, his colourful geometrical backcloths overshadow everything else, like a pushy guest who spoils a party. Fiona Chadwick and Jonathan Cope gradually become the most prominent among a cast of eight women and four men. Isaiah Jackson conducted.

John Percival

#### BBCPO/Klee Albert Hall/Radio 3

For an orchestra renowned for its commitment to late 20th-century music, the BBC Philharmonic has chosen to start surprisingly close to the mainstream for its four Prom appearances. Richard Rodney Bennett's *Lovesongs* on August 31 is the only cautious exception, and on Wednesday the players started as they meant to go on with a programme of Beethoven, Bartók and Dvorák.

Beethoven's ballet music *The Creatures of Prometheus* has come of age in the past two or three years: concert programmers have become more willing to let us hear the entire incidental music, and with justification. The BBCPO and Bernhard Klee, though, kindled just a tantalizing flicker or two of the Promethean fire. We got the Overture; we heard a tiny courtly dance which leads the "creatures" to Parnassus. But then, just as they were about to meet the Muses and be humanized through their comical-tragic-pastoral initiations, they were whisked off into the singalong Finale.

Perhaps it was their never actually meeting Apollo that

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## FRIDAY PAGE

# One woman's war

Disguised as a male guerrilla, Jan Goodwin lived with freedom fighters in Afghanistan for three months. She told Lee Rodwell why — and what she discovered there

The small, oddly-shaped piece of brown plastic looked harmless enough lying on the table in the Waldorf Hotel. Jan Goodwin picked it up. "This is a butterfly mine," she explained. "The Russians have dropped thousands of them in Afghanistan. They flutter down like sycamore seeds and when they are on the ground they look like stones. If a child kicks one or picks one up, it blows their arms or legs off. Other mines are made to look like brightly coloured toys."

Producing the mine is an effective piece of theatre, a shocking symbol of death among the coffee cups. Jan Goodwin knows that. But in her efforts to make the world sit up and notice what is still happening in Afghanistan she will use whatever tricks she has to.

In 1984 Goodwin, a British-born journalist who was — and still is — executive editor of *Ladies Home Journal*, the American magazine, went to Pakistan to write a story on what life was like for Afghan women refugees.

She had heard accounts of atrocities in Afghanistan: pregnant women eviscerated, children set on fire in front of their parents, whole villages massacred. She decided that she needed to see for herself and what she witnessed during a brief four-day trip into Afghanistan with a small group of Mujahidin made her determined to return. A year later she did.

Disguised as a male guerrilla, her red hair dyed black, she spent three months travelling with a group of freedom fighters into the war zones, gathering material for a book, *Caught in the Crossfire*, and praying that her luck would not run out.

It didn't — although Goodwin admits: "There were times when I questioned my sanity in going and times when I was damned scared."

Goodwin, aged 43, had covered wars before, in Israel as a freelance writer and in El Salvador and Cambodia for *Ladies Home Journal*, but insists that she is not a "war junkie". "Once I had seen what was happening, I knew I had to go back. I was outraged and there is no point in being outraged and doing nothing with your passion. Yet the average American knew nothing of what was happening in Afghanistan. Someone told me that he



Deadly plaything: Jan Goodwin displays a souvenir of her travels with the Afghan guerrilla group, a butterfly mine

knew what an Afghan dog looked like but not an Afghan person." It was the determination to bring the "systematic decimation of a nation" to the world's attention that sent Goodwin back into Afghanistan.

Seeing her in the surroundings of a London hotel, dressed in her meet-the-Press clothes, complete with chunky jewellery and high heels, it is hard to imagine her as she was at the end of her three-month stay, dirty, suffering from amoebic dysentery and having lost 30lb.

It says much for her character that

human mine-detectors. But they did that for each other, too."

"And there was one time during a night attack when the commander told me to start going down the mountain because if they had to retreat in a hurry I'd be left behind. They go down those mountains like goats. I didn't argue."

Despite the dangers, Goodwin says that she was not often frightened. "No one can function in a state of fear. You always think that it won't happen to you."

Even so, Goodwin's strength and nerve were tested to the limit. The

**'There were times when I questioned my sanity in going and times when I was damned scared'**

she was able to persuade the Mujahidin — whose women are usually veiled — to accept her as one of them. "If anything it was an advantage to be a woman. Physically it was very tough and there was no privacy. But because I was female they didn't have to keep up that male machismo thing and because they were Islamic they had a great respect for women."

Did she worry that as a woman who would take a cab rather than walk 10 blocks in Manhattan, she would be too great a liability inside the Soviet-occupied country? "I think the toughest thing to accept was when young kids would say 'Follow me', and you realized that they were acting as

terrain over which she and her bodyguards travelled to link up with groups of guerrillas (sometimes by Jeep, packed in with hand grenades, ammunition and anti-tank guns, sometimes by donkey, once by tractor and often on foot), was treacherous and dangerous.

She has memories of sitting in an apricot grove in a valley being blanketed by bombs; of going through areas devastated by chemicals; of being taken in by villagers where she was treated as one of the men, eating with them, sleeping fully clothed alongside them, wishing she was one of the men so that she too could strip off and bathe in the river.

## Prostituting her art

I'm unhappy that the evidence in the Jeffrey Archer case is at an end. I'm sorry that the whole murky affair ever took place, but haven't you been enthralled by the presence of Miss Monica Coghlan?

"Do you regard your job in any way as a debasement of your body?" Mr Robert Alexander, QC, asked Miss Coghlan at the trial. Next came the socio-philosophical inquiry: "And after all that you have a respect for the male sex?" I knew the answers Miss Coghlan would give — (1) no, and (2) yes, but I wanted to have them confirmed once more. Of course, the questions I wanted Mr Alexander to ask were much more concrete: do you ever enjoy the sex? What mental tricks do you use to keep from being bored? However, Miss Coghlan did answer the old vexation of what sort of gear turns men on most and I made a mental resolution to try to find the garter belts that I wore 20 years ago — although I fear they will not have the same effect now.

I have spent some time interviewing prostitutes. Prostitution is a hardy annual of popular journalism and you can bet that every so often there will be a rush on the topic. I do not know Miss Coghlan, but I have spent considerable time with Donna, Marcie and assorted other street-walkers and find some aspects of their lives quite riveting.

"I'm real glad that my parents raised me so strict, you know," Donna, a street-walker in Toronto, explained to me. "Otherwise I'd be screwing around for nothing." At first I found this point of view quite baffling. After a bit more chat, its meaning became clearer.

Many prostitutes are petty bourgeois in their thinking. They are insufferably righteous about themselves. They offer a "service" and give it under strict conditions — for



BARBARA AMIEL

payment. They have nothing but contempt for those women who give it out at random. "Free", so to speak. Free sex is utterly wanton. It is even possible that Donna is not lying when she tells me that she would never "screw around" on a nice older man who would set her up the way she wants. ("You'd have to be a fool, wouldn't you?") A prostitute's considerations aren't moral but practical, and therefore often more reliable. Sex, even affection, is viewed as a business asset that is not to be squandered.

Prostitutes may swear they are in the business to get the money to bring up their child "right" or to look after aged parents, but I am sceptical. As far as I could tell, the prostitutes that I met were in the business because it is the quickest way to reconcile ambition with prospects. Their ambitions are for a life of relative ease, travel, excitement and nice clothes. Their prospects, as they know only too well, would more likely lead them to the switchboard, typing pool or the sales counter at Woolworths. Or possibly the nuptial bed of a lorry driver.

There's nothing wrong with any of these prospects, of course, but they don't reconcile easily with the high life. What many prostitutes

don't know, at least until much later, is that prostitution as they can practise it, won't lead to parties in Marbella and dinner at Fannie Claire either. Those things are offered only at a very high price and not all prostitutes are willing to pay it. But what they know in their marrow is that the jobs for which they would normally be qualified pay low wages and demand disciplined hours.

The fascination that most "ordinary" women have with prostitutes is a matter of fact. Why this is so I'm not entirely sure. I suppose that in any society where an economic value is placed on the role of wife, the prostitute is a threat. After all, sex may not be the entire stuff of marriage but it is certainly an entry point and a major commodity in a woman's portfolio. Prostitutes devalue the whole business by giving away the great sexual mystery for an all-in £50 a throw, instead of a lifetime of support. It is dumping on the market, and that depresses the value of the sexual act.

My own feelings on the subject are highly idiosyncratic. Human beings are unusual in their ability to pair-bond and copulate with an informed affection, if not always love. To perform the act without even the lust or interest of a relationship is akin, I think, to a sort of necrophilia. Of course, being mercenary is what most people are, unless they are donating their time, and the rest is just a matter of whether or not one approves of what they are selling.

A man is never so harmless as when in pursuit of money and never so evil as when in pursuit of power. La Rochefoucauld told us. Well, this may be so, but for some of us there are certain activities in the human condition that are not for sale: killing is one. Making love ought to be another.

From Alexander C. McKee, *East Slope*, University of Sussex Brighton

Having just arrived in England on holiday from my home in Belfast, replete with salad, my body newly bathed, dogless, and wearing one of my dozen or so pairs of shoes, I picked up my copy of *The Times* and began to read with some interest your interview with Sally Belfrage's (Wednesday Page, July 8). The amusement, however, was soon dissipated.

We are led to believe that

### TALKBACK

Belfast has a monopoly on "... the smell of rancid cooking fat, unwashed bodies, filthy old dogs, feet that had never had a change of shoes". I wonder if anyone has ever made a survey of the comparative degrees of stench to be found in, say, the slums of east London, or even areas of New York like the Bronx and Harlem?

This might prove to be a worthwhile follow-up exercise for Miss Belfrage.

From Margaret Hough, *Rosemount, Deganwy, North Wales*

Perhaps Miss Belfrage's observations about the offensive smells of Belfast and the aged appearance of its women are not included in her book because they are not strictly accurate? If this is the case then she is both treacherous and dishonest. If you accept people's hospitality, as she did, then you have a duty to be rigorously honest in what you commit to print. This obligation applies equally to newspapers and to books.

## Love at the top

Is marriage the making — or breaking — of the successful businesswoman?

Jane Young was too busy building up her business to go on holiday with her husband — so she lost him to the cleaning lady, who did. Then the former Lloyds Bank Businesswoman of the Year (1986) was made bankrupt and lost both her furniture company and her home — proving, some will say, that



Power and pressure: Jackie Staples, a successful, and now single, businesswoman

though it may be inadvisable to sacrifice all for love it is ludicrous to do so for business.

Can a successful woman's marriage survive her dedication to duty?

Leah Hertz, author of *The Business Amazons* — the book about female tycoons — dis-

covered that successful women executives were more likely to be single — although she herself runs her Crochetta knitwear empire in partnership with her husband Jonathan.

Judging by the marital status of the competitors in this year's Veuve Clicquot Businesswoman of the Year Award and Options/TSB Women Mean Business Award, marriage can be a sound basis on which to build a success.

Three of the five finalists for Businesswoman of the Year in April were married, and 16 of the 26 current semi-finalists for the Women Mean Business Award are married, have children and are running businesses that range from a debt collection agency to a company exporting yashmaks to the Middle East.

For some, the price of success is to be suddenly single: Jackie Staples, founder of Jake, the burgeoning mail-order clothes business, freely admits that the pressures and perks of running her own successful company played a significant part in her marriage break-up.

Most successful female businesswomen who have managed to master marriage as well, seem to have incorporated their partners cleverly into their businesses (seven of the Women Mean Business semi-finalists have done so). In many cases the man is the dominant, if unobtrusive, partner. Those who readily associate the fresh face of Anita Roddick with the Body Shop's international success, might be hard put to identify her husband, Gordon, the

financial wizard behind the business. Bernard Ashley performed a similarly vital but low profile function for Laura Ashley, until his wife's death made him play a more openly acknowledged hand.

Debbie Moore still gets furious at the rumours that she in Pineapple plummeted when her marriage to Norris Masters was on the rocks, protesting: "He had very little to do with the business long before the break-up."

But the new man in her life, Peter Baines, is now Pineapple's managing director, proving how enterprising women often have to mix business with pleasure.

Behind every successful businesswoman, it seems, there should ideally be an equally successful man — preferably in the same business. Other husbands and wives manage to survive by being (equally) successful in related fields, so that they can exchange views and understand each other's problems.

Another option is the one which was chosen by a woman who, it was generally acknowledged, could have been a very famous international opera singer. But ignoring the avuncular advice of her managers and the rave reviews, she settled quite determinedly for a less exalted singing career that could accommodate a happy family life. "Press cuttings won't keep you warm when you're old," she used to say with a satisfied smile.

Neither, perhaps, will businesswoman of the year awards.

Victoria McKee

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# Ridley keeps rates down

By Richard Evans  
Political Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, paved the way for minimal rate increases next year when he announced last night a £13.775 million government grant towards town hall spending.

The rate support grant allocation for 1988-9 is £750 million, 3.75 per cent up on the current financial year, and should ensure Mr Ridley avoids the repeat of last year's embarrassing clashes over local government spending with Conservative back bench MPs from the Shire counties.

With the Government facing months of controversy of the "poll tax", the Cabinet is determined to avoid another run-in with town hall chiefs. A Cabinet meeting scheduled yesterday to decide how the poll tax should be phased in was postponed until Tuesday because of pressure of work on ministers involved.

In his Commons statement, Mr Ridley set local government current expenditure provision - which pays salaries and funds services - at £27,538 million for next year, a 7 per cent increase on this year.

Mr Ridley told MPs that the average increase in rate bills for most authorities "should be around the rate of inflation". The Government's contribution to town hall spending will be maintained for the third year running at 46 per cent, compared to 61 per cent in 1979-80.

In spite of his apparent generosity, Mr Ridley cracked down on Labour-controlled councils deemed to be guilty of excessive spending and rate capped five new authorities: Ealing, Kingston Upon Hull, Liverpool, Manchester and Waltham Forest. Their spending levels will be restricted to a 0 per cent increase over their 1986-7 budget.

Twelve authorities have been reselected for rate capping - Basildon, Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Harrogate, Lambeth, Lewisham, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Southwark, Thamesdown and Tower Hamlets. Their spending will stand still at 1987-8 levels.

Mr Ridley insisted that many authorities continued to spend more than was necessary and he said they owed it to their ratepayers, and prospective community charge payers, to do all they could to keep spending down.

"Authorities should concentrate on reducing their pay roll bills - both by negotiating settlements which reflect the continuing low rate of inflation, and also by reversing the recent steady upward drift in manpower."

Mr Jack Cunningham, Labour's chief environment spokesman criticized the rate grant settlement, saying it was £1.2 billion short of the sum demanded by all local government associations, including Tory members.

Parliament, page 4  
Town Hall jugular, page 12

# A lively future for the Falklands flagship



Captain Vihod Pasricha standing on the flight deck of the Indian Navy's latest and proudest acquisition - the former HMS Hermes - as she sailed from Devonport Dockyard for Bombay yesterday. The 29,000-ton commando carrier, flagship for the

task force in the Falklands Conflict in 1982, has been sold to India in a £60 million deal and renamed INS Virat, meaning "Huge". Launched by Lady Churchill in 1953, she last sailed with a full crew in 1983 before becoming a training ship.

A Royal Navy spokesman said yesterday: "It is a very sad day. She will be remembered fondly by many current and ex-sailors. But she is fighting fit and there is plenty of life left in her yet."

(Photograph: Graham Wood).



# Shultz 'left in dark on Iran arms deal'

Continued from page 1

of the nation, at the hearings a few days ago.

The Secretary, who was sworn in but did not have a lawyer beside him, gave a dramatic account of Mr Reagan's anger at finding that the Iranians were still trying to obtain US arms as recently as last December - after the scandal broke.

He said that, after responsibility for Iran policy had been returned to the State Department, he authorized the CIA to go ahead with a meeting in London already scheduled with Iranian representatives. But he was furious to discover the US side was discussing a swap of the 17 prisoners in Kuwait, and still wanted to bargain on hostages.

Mr Shultz, immediately ordering a halt to the talks, tried to see Mr Reagan but he was denied access by the White House staff. So he telephoned the President directly on a Sunday morning, told him his private quarters and told him of the Iranian demands.

The Secretary of State testified: "The President was astonished. And I have never seen him so mad. He's very easy-going, but his jaw set and his eyes flashed, and both of us, I think, felt the same way about it. I finally felt that the President deeply understands

that something is radically wrong here."

In one dramatic example of the attempt to deceive him and prevent him learning of the deal, Mr Shultz said that last May Mr Charles Price, the US Ambassador in London, had sent a cable about an approach to a British entrepreneur to get him involved in an arms deal to Iran. He was at the Tokyo economic summit at the time and immediately confronted Admiral Poindexter over this. The admiral replied: "We are not doing this. This is not our deal." Admiral Poindexter told Mr Price that there was "only a smidgen of truth" in it.

The committee lawyer then read a confidential memorandum sent Colonel Oliver North, his aide, the next day ordering him to avoid the London Embassy on his next visit. Mr Shultz looked livid.

Meanwhile, a poll published yesterday found that Americans, by a 2-1 majority, favour presidential pardons for Admiral Poindexter and Colonel North, the two key figures in the scandal.

It was also revealed that more than \$1 million in private donations has poured into the fund set up by three former naval academy classmates of Colonel North to pay for his defence.

# Iran stays silent as convoy steams out of danger zone

Continued from page 1

rain - putting half a knot on to her previously acknowledged top speed of 16½ knots - as two tiny frigates protected her by describing a large circle perhaps two miles in radius around her.

The three US warships went to battle stations twice on their journey up the Gulf, at first when the convoy was in range of Iran's Chinese-made Silkworm missiles in the Strait of Hormuz and later when the ships passed 14 miles off the island of Abu Musa from where Iranian Revolutionary Guards have in the past launched gunboat attacks on Kuwait shipping.

Last night, in the sweltering 110 degrees heat of the upper Gulf, the American crews were on "condition three", placing one-third of their personnel at combat readiness as they passed the area where the US missile frigate Stark was attacked by an Iraqi jet on May 17, a seminal event which led - directly and ironically - to America's growing support for Iraq in the Gulf War.

For their part, the Iranians announced yesterday that they would be holding naval manoeuvres, codenamed Martyrdom - both inside and outside the Gulf - over the next two days. But such operations, even if they materialize, are unlikely to

affect the American escorted convoy which will not reach the Strait of Hormuz until Sunday night at the earliest.

According to the American naval escort commanders, Washington has been negotiating for its warships to enter Kuwait port when they complete their in-bound convoy voyages. But they say that today's frigate escort will be replaced by another three warships while the Bridgeton busies herself loading oil at the Kuwaiti offshore terminal eight miles from the coast. The Gas Prince is expected to enter Kuwait port.

But the Americans will be particularly anxious to safeguard the Bridgeton as she loads. Her voyage up to and away from the offshore terminal takes her down a 30-mile narrow channel - her draught is too great to approach from any other direction - and it is here that Kuwaiti tankers have been most vulnerable to mines laid by the Iranians over the past two months.

Kuwaiti naval escorts are scheduled to protect the super-tanker while she stands idle, but the Americans are thought to be involved in mine-clearing lest a hitherto successful operation should suddenly be terminated by an attack for which it would be impossible to pin responsibility.

A pool report by American

journalists on board the Fox yesterday described how a lookout spotted a 30-foot Arab dhow ahead of the warship when she passed through the Strait of Hormuz. Despite a blazing searchlight and five short blasts on the Fox's whistle from 500 yards range, they said, the dhow remained dead in the water, forcing the frigate to make a sudden turn to port.

The Iranian F-4s were originally detected by a Saudi Awas radar surveillance aircraft and were later picked up by aircraft from the Constellation. A Soviet frigate was later seen observing the convoy from a distance of about 15 miles, not far from a Soviet tanker - apparently one of three chartered by Kuwait - which earlier crossed the American frigates' path on its way out of the Gulf.

The only other warship to come near the American convoy was the British destroyer Cardiff, part of Britain's Armilla patrol.

The Fox herself has made 14 earlier voyages through the Strait of Hormuz and Captain Mathis expressed his surprise that on this occasion there was scarcely any merchant traffic in the area.

"I think the word must have gotten out that today would be a good day to celebrate Haj or some other great holiday," he was quoted as saying.

# Commons sketch

# Nice words and a tender moment

Northern Ireland Questions never sees the House at its most full, though one or two members can be spotted from time to time.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has a high attendance record, though he might well investigate the saving involved in sending a tape-recording of his previous statements in his place.

Most of his sentences include at least two of the following words: "welcoming", "very real", "opportunity", "assurance", "co-operation" or "encouraging". Such nice words occur in the House only when the situation they are describing is nasty.

"Continuing to yield encouraging results", Mr King said, as the time ticked by. Unionist members attempted a heckle or two, but without much enthusiasm.

Mr Ian Paisley, often such a lively contributor, was rumoured to have already left for his holiday, so perhaps the vision of that Reverend gentleman, alcohol-free lager in hand, trouser-legs rolled up, hankie on head, merrily whizzing along on his wind-surf was arousing sufficient envy among his confederates to subdue their fiercer passion.

Questions to the Prime Minister were beginning at 3.15pm, so the three hundred or so members who rolled in at 3.14pm had the opportunity to listen to a good fifty seconds or so of spirited discussion on Northern Ireland. As talk turned to the dangers of too rigid sectarianism, Dr David Owen came in, followed closely by Mr David Steel.

It has been some time now since these two opposing factions have been seen together in public. When Mr Steel chose to sit next to Dr Owen, many observers felt that a welcome opportunity for the assurance of encouraging closer co-operation had become very real.

While Mr King moved finally to plastic bullets, Mr Steel turned to Dr Owen and began to talk with some animation. Dr Owen, in his legs-stretched, arms-folded, sun-worshipping posture, looked outwards, as if grudgingly listening to the hypocritical gibberish of a malingering fatality.

"Questions to the Prime Minister" announced the Speaker, and Mrs Thatcher, in blue suit with navy trimmings, took up her place by the Despatch Box. It was now Dr Owen's turn to speak to Mr Steel. Tomorrow, they would be off on "holiday" could they kiss and make up before parting? The House was on tenterhooks, so much so that even when their Leader was speaking of the Common Agricultural Policy, many Conservatives found their eyes straying to the couple opposite.

Dr Owen was telling a joke to Mr Steel. After what seemed like years, Mr Steel smiled. Ah! Everyone felt so happy for them, so very happy. Mr Steel then stood up to leave for the Liberal bench. "He's going now!" shouted Mr Dennis Skinner in his ribald cackle. Some people can be so coarse.

Not wishing to intrude, the Prime Minister carried on talking about the Common Agricultural Policy. Dr Owen, in his black, black suit sought consolation with Mrs Rosie Barnes, whose crisp cotton blouse was so clean that it had an almost bluish whiteness.

"Why doesn't she have the guts to tell it to the House of Commons?" spluttered Mr Roy Hattersley about something or other. "Why doesn't he have the guts to accept precisely what happened?" trilled the Prime Minister in return.

Mr Steel smiled softly to himself. Squabbles were so unnecessary. Mr Gerald Kaufman heckled the Prime Minister but the Prime Minister brushed him off with ease, in a scene strangely reminiscent of the Tom and Jerry cartoon series, in which the large lady with the broom gets rid of little Jerry with one fell swoop.

But as Mr Steel smiled, Dr Owen began listening intently to Mr John Cartwright (SDP), as if he had forgotten all about that happy moment he had just shared with the Liberal leader. Would Cartwright win Owen back? Would Steel leave Owen - forever? Who knows? That was the final episode in the present series. A new series begins at the SDP conference, in September.

Craig Brown

# Left-wing councils face inner city cash freeze

Continued from page 1

existing quota of seven UDCs in run-down areas with about 20 smaller versions centred on towns with similar but lesser problems.

But in the wake of the decisive election victory it is now rethinking the strategy.

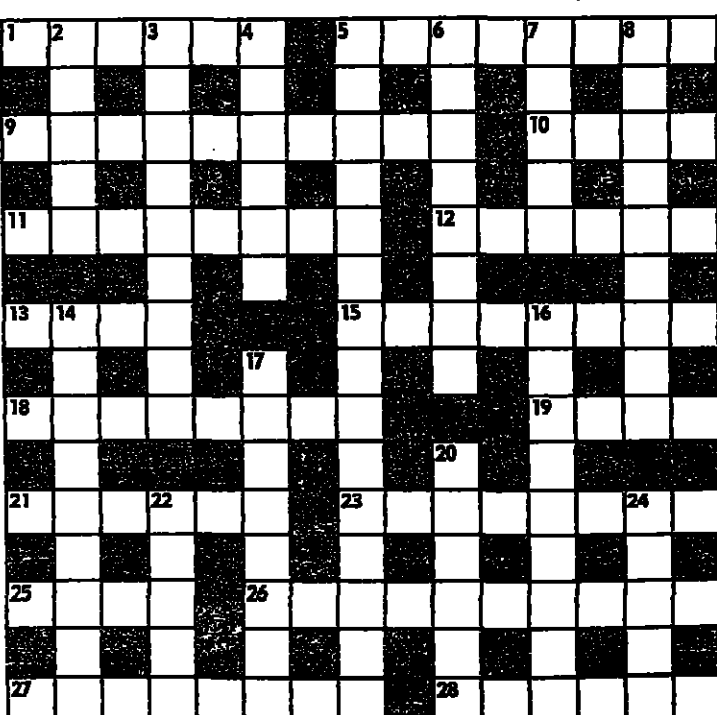
Encouraged by the fact that Labour council leaders in the Midlands, the North-east and Manchester are beginning to express interest in the inner cities drive, ministers are coming to the view that the new corporations would stand a better chance of success if

they were based on a partnership with councils prepared to work with the grain of the Thatcherite self-help philosophy.

Funding levels will depend on the success of the Department of the Environment's bid in the public spending round to be decided in the autumn.

Among the areas most likely to benefit from the new corporations are Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, Leeds, Rotherham, Birmingham and Coventry.

## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,417



- ACROSS**
- 1 Team said to have expressed weariness (6).
  - 5 Rejoice from Heads of English, Maths or Chemistry (4-4).
  - 9 Mistaking hen for gull in the wind (10).
  - 10 A spoilsport down under, especially to law breakers (4).
  - 12 Dismaying press chief admits point is one-sided (4-4).
  - 14 Enjoyment not essential to the course (6).
  - 15 The *ne plus ultra* is being married in a church (4).
  - 16 One king a French portrait painter captured? Improbable (8).
  - 18 Deceive poet and gain king (8).
  - 19 10 possessions information, they say... (4).
  - 21... convincing information in many holy books (6).
  - 23 Ring the Italian clergy for protection from the elements (8).
  - 25 Unwilling to be beheaded for this malediction (4).
  - 26 Compositions end thus in new arrangement for harps (10).
- DOWN**
- 27 Principal grounds for a bluff? (8).
  - 28 Surrenders the takings (6).
  - 29 Soldier raised game, dwelling in the Arctic (5).
  - 3 Fast-moving expedition holds up Oxford Street (4-5).
  - 4 Slays restricting the Spanish in certain periods (6).
  - 5 A Utopian place - strictly for the birds (3-6-4).
  - 6 Large ferret creature is being a bore (8).
  - 7 Commonplace note in a false god (5).
  - 8 Has lyrics rewritten for the developing stage? (9).
  - 14 Drink for commander in the local unfinished perhaps (9).
  - 16 Small anchor kept outside, lent out for ballast (9).
  - 17 Climber's song once known for its introduction (8).
  - 20 Stylish girl with extremely county exterior (6).
  - 22 Hoped for material for a priestly vestment (5).
  - 24 General direction of river in incline (5).

## WEATHER

General situation: Southeast England will have a brighter day although there may be quite a bit of cloud at times. Northern Ireland, Wales and northern England will start cloudy with a little rain in places but it will become dry and brighter with some sunny spells by the afternoon. The rest of England will be dry with sunny spells. Scotland will have a mixture of showers and sunny intervals though many southern counties will remain dry. Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Dry and sunny but cloud spreading into western areas during Sunday with outbreaks of rain.

## ABROAD

NIDDAY: c. cloud, d. drizzle, f. fair, q. fog, r. rain; s. sun; sh. shower; s. thunder					
	C	F	C		
Ajaccio	s 27	81	Majorca	c 28	82
Algeria	s 34	93	Malaga	c 28	82
Alex'ndria	s 30	85	Manila	c 28	82
Algiers	f 31	83	Marseilles	c 30	82
Amman	s 17	63	Moscow	c 22	72
Athens	s 41	106	Munich	c 27	81
Bahrain	s 40	106	Nairobi	c 25	77
Batavia	s 34	93	N'Delhi	s 39	100
Bombay	s 24	75	New York	c 31	88
Buenos Aires	s 24	75	Osaka	c 27	81
Calcutta	f 16	61	Paris	c 19	66
Canton	s 21	70	Perth	c 18	64
Cheng-tu	s 20	68	Prague	c 12	54
Chong-ching	s 32	90	Reykjavik	c 11	52
Chicago	s 32	90	Rio de Janeiro	s 38	100
Chi-chang	f 7	45	Rome	c 21	70
Chi-chung	f 7	45	Salt Lake City	c 19	66
Cebu	s 39	102	Santiago	c 13	55
Cebu	s 39	102	Sao Paulo	c 17	63
Cebu	s 39	102	Shanghai	c 25	77
Cebu	s 39	102	Singapore	c 28	82
Cebu	s 39	102	Sydney	c 13	55
Cebu	s 39	102	Taipei	c 24	75
Cebu	s 39	102	Tokyo	c 24	75
Cebu	s 39	102	Tunis	c 37	99
Cebu	s 39	102	Valencia	c 28	79
Cebu	s 39	102	Vancouver	c 17	63
Cebu	s 39	102	Venice	c 20	86
Cebu	s 39	102	Vienna	c 27	81
Cebu	s 39	102	Warsaw	c 15	77
Cebu	s 39	102	Washington	c 8	46
Cebu	s 39	102	Zurich	c 18	64

## AROUND BRITAIN

# Solution to Puzzle No 17,416

B	A	N	D	A	G	E	R	S	O	M	A	N	I	A	N	G	V
A	T	O	M	S	O	M	E	R	S	O	M	A	N	I	A	N	G
I	T	O	L	D	T	E	S	T	A	K	E	N	T	I			
V	E	N	N	O	T	E	S	T	A	K	E	N	T	I			
L	I	E	S	T	A	K	E	N	T	I							
S	T	A	R	T	E	R	S	H	A	N	D	E	N				
L	A	M	B	A	T	E	R	G	A	M	D	A					
L	E	T	I	C	E	R	S	O	M	E	R	S	O	M	E	R	S
L	O	N	E	R	P	E	N	C	E	N	C	I					
C	A	D	S	O	M	E	R	S	O	M	E	R	S	O	M	E	R
K	E	N	T	I													
H	E	L	P	E	R	S	O	M	E	R	S	O	M	E	R	S	O



Commons sketch  
Nice words and  
tender moment

PART 2

FRIDAY JULY 24 1987

THE



TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26  
SPORT 30-34

Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1836.1 (+3.7)  
FT-SE 100  
2340.2 (-4.3)

Bargains  
49687 (45720)

USM (Datastream)  
213.78 (+0.3)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6035 (+0.0085)

W German mark  
2.9745 (+0.0022)

Trade-weighted  
72.7 (+0.1)

BAA slips  
2½p on the  
grey market

The price of the partly-paid shares in BAA fell by 2½p to 142½p in unofficial grey market dealings yesterday. The drop reflected the fourth day of falling stock market prices, said Cleveland Securities, which operates the market for institutions only.

To limit the problems which are expected in City back-offices when dealings start next week, County NatWest, the Government adviser to the issue, has reduced the time during which the shares will be dealt in through letters of allocation.

Rolls-Royce shares, which were sold in May, will continue to be traded in that form until mid-September. To ease the congestion caused by having two new issues going through the market at the same time, County NatWest has arranged for standard dealings in BAA shares to begin on August 28, just one month after dealings start.

Pearson offer

Pearson's US subsidiary Pearson Inc will offer \$29 a share in cash for the 34.9 per cent of Camco Inc that it does not already own for an estimated \$80 million. Camco manufactures equipment for energy industries.

Bremner acts

The board of Bremner has disenfranchised Malaga Investments, claiming Malaga has failed to give satisfactory answers on the ultimate ownership of its holding in Bremner.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York  
Dow Jones 2465.24 (-4.94)  
Tokyo  
Nikkei Dow 2306.52 (+333.78)  
Hong Kong  
Hang Seng 3366.82 (-13.58)  
Amsterdam Gen 316.1 (-3.7)  
Sydney AO 1985.3 (+23.9)  
Frankfurt  
Dax 1927.6 (-24.6)  
Brussels  
General 5114.3 (+15.7)  
Paris CAC 3564.60 (+2.0)  
London FT 726.27 (-0.27)  
Closing prices Page 25  
Recent issues Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:  
Victor Products 193p (+51p)  
T Cowe 965p (+55p)  
Stanley Leisure 417p (+32p)  
Bejan 280p (+10p)  
Metals Closures 1422p (+38p)  
GUS A 300p (+17p)  
Goodman Brothers 90p (+17p)  
Comore 188p (+18p)  
Consolidated Gold 1255p (+21p)  
Manover-Swiss 285p (+17p)  
Swire 132p (+27p)

FALLS:  
Aren 212p (-13p)  
Smiths 225p (-13p)  
Johnson Matthey 380p (-13p)  
McKechie 350p (-21p)  
Lucas 710p (-15p)  
Dea Corp 538p (-17p)  
Courtauld 487p (-11p)  
Glaxo 1753p (-45p)  
Pearson 734p (-13p)  
Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 9%  
3-month Interbank 9½-9¾%  
3-month eligible bills 9½-9¾%  
buying rate  
US Prime Rate 8½%  
Federal Funds 6½-6¾%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.66-5.64%  
30-year bonds 9½-9¾%

CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.6035  
£ DM 2.9745  
£ Sfr 2.4638  
£ FF 16.705  
£ Yen 241.81  
£ Index 72.7  
ECU 20.698122  
SDR 20.79082

GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$454.75 pm \$453.95  
close \$454.50-455.00 (283.25-283.75)  
New York:  
Comex \$454.20-454.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) pm \$20.05bbl (\$20.00)  
Denotes latest trading price  
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# McMahon: no more disposals

## Midland to retain subsidiary firms

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Sir Kit McMahon, the chairman and chief executive of Midland Bank, yesterday said there were no plans to dispose of any Midland's operations beyond the sales already announced. He also announced a 29 per cent increase in interim profits to £251 million, despite a £548 million deficit after accounting for bad debt provisions.

Sir Kit said the results would add to the strengthening of the balance sheet begun in the restructuring measures, although there was still more to be done. "We will continue to shape the business to areas where we see higher rates of return," he said.

"We have completed our major disposals and we don't have 'for sale' signs up outside any of Midland's businesses."

He dismissed speculation of a mass exodus of senior staff from Greenwell Montagu, the equity arm of the group, after negotiations with Morgan Stanley failed. Many observers believe a large-scale defection would leave Greenwell virtually unable to operate as an effective stockbroker.

Sir Kit said the group still had a commitment to equity markets world-wide and

would concentrate on tailoring its equity business to its clients' needs. He also dismissed suggestions that Midland was thinking of selling Thomas Cook, the travel subsidiary.

The profit of £251 million for the six months to June 30, up from £195 million last year, was widely expected after Midland announced the restructuring measures.

The result, however, did not include the £653 million one-

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off provision against Latin American debt, taken as an extraordinary item. If this figure is included, the profit and loss account showed a deficit of £548 million.

The bank declared an unchanged interim dividend of 11.5p.

Domestic banking performed strongly, rising 55 per cent from £128 million to £198 million, as domestic lending expanded. Mortgage lending soared by 62 per cent to a total of £3.1 billion under the impact of the special Home Plus scheme, but bank officials said this increase was

unlikely to continue. Personal loans and overdraft lending also increased, while costs were brought under control partly through a reduction in the branch network.

Sir Kit said costs on investment banking operations were also being reduced although they were still high. Investment banking profits were £13 million, little changed from the second half of last year, despite a strong contribution from corporate finance and treasury operations.

He added that the gilt-edged market-making business was in profit and that losses on equity market-making were declining.

International banking operations were virtually static with profits of £19 million after the deduction of £40 million in unpaid interest on loans to Brazil as well as foreign exchange losses.

Increases to ordinary bad debt provisions—taken above the line—plunged from £210 million to £131 million. This year's figure includes the £40 million in Brazilian interest which the bank has accrued but provided against until Brazil lifts its moratorium on medium debt repayments.

## I may stay on, says Delfont

By Cliff Feltham

Lord Delfont, the chairman of First Leisure Corporation, the entertainment group, who will be 78 in September, could stay on for another couple of years.

Waiting in the wings as chairman designate is Mr Michael Cottrell, aged 48, a former Courage managing director.

Lord Delfont, who brought First Leisure to the stock market in 1984, said: "He will make a very worthy successor. But I may be here for another year or two yet. I may be coming up for 78 but I feel as if I am 25."

He was announcing a sharp jump in half time pretax profits for the group of £3.8 million, up from £2 million last time.

Once again, the bulk of the profits have been generated from Blackpool, where First Leisure runs the Tower, Winter Gardens and three piers.

Lord Delfont said: "We are still very happy catering for the mass end of the leisure market. I want to watch the illuminations at Blackpool and it took me four hours to get from one end of the front to the other."

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Lord Delfont: 'I may be coming up 78 but I feel 25'

## GUS keeps ahead of the forecasters

By Ray Heath

Profits of the Great Universal Stores mail order and retail group have outdistanced all but the most optimistic profit forecasts for the second year running and, in the face of tumbling prices elsewhere, the shares jumped by 50p to 2.175p yesterday.

In the year to end-March, pretax profits reached £337.6 million, against £290.3 million, excluding property profits, which were unchanged at £7.4 million. Most City forecasts had centred on the mid-£330 million range.

The rise of 16 per cent is further evidence that the company is increasing its momentum, benefiting from improved profit margins and its modest takeover programme. The gain was earned on turnover 8.9 per cent up at £2,247 million. A final dividend of 16.5p takes the total up to 24.5p, against 21p last year.

The first three months' trading has showed another improvement on the similar period of last year, and analysts were adding £10 million or so to their forecasts for the current trading period which have already ranged up to £380 million.

This year's figures also included a £6.8 million contribution from GUS's share of profits of Harris Queensway, in which it has 23 per cent holding.

GUS shareholders are never treated to a surplus of information with the preliminary figures, but it is apparent that the group's main catalogues—Kays, Great Universal and Marshall Ward—provided much of the improvement.

Group operating margins widened from 10.6 per cent to 11.8 per cent. This was despite a fall in operating margins in the services to industry division, where sales fell in several businesses because of lower demand from customers in energy-related fields.

Mr Greg Hutchings, the chief executive, said: "The year has started well and we are very confident of achieving well above market average earnings growth."

Pretax profits last year advanced from £7.4 million to £30.1 million. Pegler-Hattersley companies, acquired in June and included for just over 10 months, accounted for 69 per cent of pre-interest profits of £27.6 million. The

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## Unions favour BA takeover of B-Cal

# CAA calls for referral of airline merger

By Colin Narbrough



Competition issues: Christopher Tugendhat, CAA chairman

## Commissions go-ahead

The Civil Aviation Authority has decided to allow travel agents to split their commissions on scheduled service fares with their business customers from September 1.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the CAA chairman, said the CAA saw nothing reprehensible about what was a normal commercial practice and was merely removing the stigma of illegality.

There were only a few corporations with substantial business travel accounts that were not already enjoying the benefits of commission-splitting.

Unless the CAA received "compelling evidence" from

the airlines as to why they should not obtain an equivalent freedom on discounts, bulk discounting by airlines would also be legalised from September 1, he said.

In spite of objections from airlines and travel agents, the CAA did not believe the discounts would be detrimental to the industry or its customers. Its view is supported by the Office of Fair Trading and the Air Transport Users Committee.

Nor did the CAA accept that legalised commission-splitting would drive smaller travel agents out of business, as evidence pointed to smaller agents doing little or no scheduled airline business.

The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday came out in favour of referring the proposed merger between British Airways and British Caledonian to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The airline trade unions, on the other hand, called for an early go-ahead on the deal to safeguard thousands of jobs in the industry.

While the decision on referring the £237 million tie-up rests with Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, a referral would mean months of delay that could spell financial disaster for the troubled B-Cal.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the CAA chairman, revealed his organization's position in a carefully-worded speech made to a news conference at the CAA's Kingsway headquarters.

He made clear that the CAA's scope for influencing the future shape of the aviation sector was circumscribed, despite the "important issues of airline competition and airports policy" raised by the merger. This could only be changed by legislation.

"Otherwise, the only mechanism to attach conditions that may be needed to enable the merger to go ahead seems to be by way of a reference to the MMC."

Mr Tugendhat noted that the emphasis of the Government's aviation policy over many years had been to encourage competition.

"Clearly the proposed merger of our two largest international scheduled ser-

vice carriers has important implications for this policy."

Increased airline competition was, furthermore, not something the Government had only pursued at home. It had advocated increased competition widely in Europe, he said.

He pointed out that the new airline would acquire a very strong position at Gatwick, in addition to BA's dominance at Heathrow, and could be expected to reinforce its position at Gatwick if airports policy was left unchanged.

The CAA was in broad agreement with the present policy, which favours scheduled services over charter flights at Gatwick, he noted.

But Mr Tugendhat said the authority had no power to substitute one carrier for another on a route, if the change was intended to achieve structural changes in the industry.

BA made its position clear to the CAA last month. He quoted BA as saying: "Causing a reduction in competition by better providing the consumer with what he wants is not anti-competitive. It should never be prevented. It may lead ultimately to a monopoly, but this is no reason to prevent it."

The CAA board meets today to draw up its formal submission on the merger to the Office of Fair Trading, which is studying the proposal before making its recommendation to Lord Young next month.

In a statement, six airline unions, representing 50,000 of the BA and B-Cal workforce, urged Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of the OFT, to give the merger the go-ahead.

## Consumer spending rises 1.7%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Consumer spending in Britain rose sharply in the second quarter, official figures showed. It rose by 1.7 per cent in real terms, buoyed by growth in incomes, tax reductions and rising credit.

The second quarter rise, which reflected higher spending across most categories of goods and services, is in line with other evidence of strong growth in demand in Britain.

It was the first big rise in consumer spending since last summer, and pushed consumer spending to 3.5 per cent above its level a year earlier.

The level of spending, in 1980 prices, rose to £41.2 billion, from £40.5 billion in the second quarter. In the final two quarters of last year, the level of spending was stuck at £40.4 billion.

Officials at the Central Statistical Office said that the figures were tentative and partly forecast, but indicated that consumer spending had broken upwards after showing little growth since the middle of last year.

The rise between the first and second quarters may have been exaggerated because of the effect of poor weather on spending earlier in the year.

The City will be looking for evidence that the strength of consumer spending has produced a sustained shift into deficit on the current account. The next trade figures, for June, are due on August 11.

## Dee rise disappoints

By Colin Campbell

The share price of Dee Corporation, which has sadly underperformed the market in the past year, fell a further 22p to 225p yesterday on chairman's comments that the present year will be equally demanding and possibly even more difficult.

Pretax results of the enlarged group (which took over the Fine Fare chain in June, last year and the Hermans Sporting Goods chain in the United States) were 52 per cent up over the year to April 25 at £192.2 million. The year's total dividend is also rising from 7.2p to 8p a share, but the outcome was below the City's best expectations.

The group is, however, "very confident" about prospects and plans an ADR quotation in New York.

Mr Alec Monk, chairman, said all subsidiaries made good progress and each reported record profit contributions. But it was a year when, Mr Monk claims, Dee Corporation was misperceived and often misunderstood.

Its accounting policies and the timetable of benefits expected to come from acquisitions were particular problem areas.

Mr Monk said: "It was always my stance that it would need at least two or three years for the full benefits of the Fine Fare deal to come through."

Shrinkage—a polite word for theft—was a particular problem within Fine Fare and is

estimated to have totalled £20 million last year, or 2 per cent of sales. The overall shrinkage of the group was an estimated 1 per cent (the norm), equivalent to £50 million out of a total turnover of £4.84 billion.

The estimated cost of integrating Fine Fare is £52.7 million, charged as an extraordinary item of which 40 per cent has been incurred to date.

Dee Corporation achieved a full 1 percentage point margin improvement within Gateway, to help lift total group trading margin from 3.25 per cent to 4.15 per cent, and is well on course with its expansion programme.

Analysts expect overall profitability to improve this financial year

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## Collapse in world market for ships

By Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

British Shipbuilders, operator of Britain's state-owned merchant shipyards, which tomorrow will announce losses of more than £140 million, has published startling figures showing how the world market for ships has collapsed in recent years.

On BS estimates, a new cargo ship is today strikingly better value than a Ford Escort.

The corporation adds that a good quality two or three year old second-hand bulk carrier can be bought for \$3 million (£1.87 million) compared with \$15 million in 1980.

Ship prices have fallen by 50 per cent in the last five years and are now the same in cash terms, says BS, as in 1978. During the same nine years, wage costs have jumped by an estimated 150 per cent, materials by 83 per cent, rates by 228 per cent and energy by 238 per cent.

BS says: "For comparative purposes the price of a Ford Escort has increased from £2,764 to £6,817 while the ship price has remained unchanged."

BS prices in competition with those of Far Eastern yards are subsidized by the British government by up to 28 per cent. But the corporation says that the collapse of the world market has led to huge financial and job losses and widespread restructuring throughout the world industry.

At today's productivity and materials price levels, says BS, the European production cost of a 30,000 deadweight ton bulk carrier is £14.4 million, made up of labour (£2.6 million) and materials (£11.8 million) and overheads (£4.5 million). But at the end of last year the world price for the same ship was just £7.7 million.

Recent price increases have raised this to £8.7 million, but this is still only slightly ahead of the cost of materials and gives a price cost gap of 40 per cent.

"It follows that there must be a further price increase of 29 per cent before European yards can compete for this sort of tonnage in the open market within the 28 per cent ceiling," says BS.

BS losses, while a large drain on British taxpayers' funds, are now minor in comparison with other important shipbuilding nations.

## Marathon Oil plans £500m gas pipeline

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

The Government has been asked to approve plans by Marathon Oil, which operates the Brae A and B oilfields, to build a new gas pipeline from the North Sea to St Fergus on the North-east coast of Scotland.

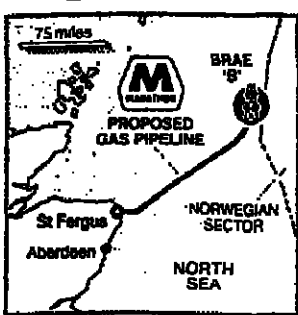
The pipeline, if approved, will provide up to 1,000 jobs in the construction phase and £500 million worth of investment in the British offshore supply industry.

It will also give oil companies operating in the area an opportunity to offer already discovered gas to British Gas, which is having to look to Norway for supplies in the next decade as the Frigg field in Norwegian waters cuts production.

Several discoveries in the area cannot be developed until an economical pipeline system is in operation.

The pipeline will cost about £200 million, and £300 million will be spent on a gas-handling facility at St Fergus, north of Aberdeen, where it would be processed and fed into British Gas's national grid.

One outlet for the gas could be the Shell-Esso pipeline,



which starts at St Fergus and takes gas to the chemical processing plant at the Firth of Forth. Another could be the Peterhead power station, operated by the North of Scotland Hydro Electricity Board, and originally fuelled by gas from the Shell-Esso fields in the North Sea before the Mossman chemical plant opened.

The pipeline also opens up the BP Millar field for development, near Brae B, which has been proven to hold large amounts of gas and gas condensates. It could form the basis for the gas-gathering system in the North Sea which BP has been proposing for years.

It could, however, mean the end of plans by a group led by

Costain to build a privately-owned pipeline system, charging the oil companies a tariff to bring their gas ashore.

The attraction of such a system to Marathon is that its Brae A and B fields contain large amounts of gas, although A is producing 100,000 barrels of oil a day. Its platforms are capable of handling the gas processing and compression.

The Brae B platform, now being installed 180 miles north-east of Aberdeen, is the world's largest offshore gas compression station. It has been designed to compress gas from Brae A and re-inject it into the Brae B reservoir so that the condensates in the B reservoir can be piped ashore through the existing BP oil pipelines in the area.

The Government is unlikely to reject the Marathon proposals, particularly as the company has one of the best records in the North Sea for investing in British industry.

Its two platforms have been built with a higher British content than most and its investments have always been timed to provide jobs in the offshore industry when other orders have been slack.

## BNFL makes record profits

By Our Energy Correspondent

British Nuclear Fuels, a long-term candidate for privatization, has reported turnover and profits at record levels for 1986-1987 but said that its results could be misleading.

Mr Christopher Harding, the chairman, said operating costs were still too high and profitability needed to be further improved.

The company made £89 million pretax profits on turnover of £792 million compared with a profit of £44 million and a turnover of £629 million the year before.

Exports accounted for £152 million of the turnover, with Japan the largest customer. The profits mean a dividend of £29 million is to be paid to the company's shareholders, the Government, compared with £8 million.

The figures were achieved in spite of a £64 million provision being made for further improvements in radioactive waste and effluent treatment.

Mr Harding said: "Whilst at first sight these results look outstanding they can also be a little misleading. We still have a great deal to do to reduce our capital and operating costs and to improve our profitability."

"This is not an option, it is a necessity. We shall only retain and expand our business if we are able to offer our customers the present high quality of our products and services at fully competitive prices."

The financial structure of BNFL makes it an ultimate candidate for privatization, but so far there has been no announcement by the Government of any intention to move it into the private sector.

The company has been under pressure from its customers in the nuclear power industry to minimize fuel and service costs, to safeguard the competitive edge nuclear power has over other fuels in some markets.

Mr Harding said all the main modifications at the Sellafield plant in Cumbria, recommended after a safety audit by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, will be completed by the end of this year.

## Spending battle put off until after the holidays

The July Cabinet meeting on public spending normally produces nothing more than the ritual reaffirmation of existing plans, and a large element of sweeping the inevitable difficulties of achieving those plans under the carpet until the autumn.

Yesterday's session, the first for the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury John Major, was rather different. The Cabinet, at the Treasury's bidding, has recognized that letting reputations ride on the precise achievement of a certain cash figure for public spending — in the case of the next financial year £154.2 billion — is no longer realistic.

Instead, the key concept is the achievement of a declining profile for public spending as a proportion of gross domestic product. And, according to, as they say, sources close to the Cabinet, ministers are rock solid on the achievement of that profile.

It implies that general government spending, as a percentage of GDP, will fall from 42.75 per cent this year to 41.75 per cent in 1988-1989, which would be the sixth consecutive annual decline since this measure of spending peaked in 1982-1983.

It also implies that there is room for some flexibility in spending if, as it clearly is at present, the economy grows rapidly. If the economy grows 1 per cent more than previously forecast, for example, public spending could rise by almost £2 billion under the new formula.

The sort of forecast numbers presented by the Chancellor to the Cabinet yesterday certainly pointed to plenty of buoyancy, with growth of about 3.5 per cent against 3 per cent at Budget-time, and inflation ending the year at less than the Budget forecast of 4 per cent. The Treasury, notwithstanding May's poor figures, has also revised down its forecast of the current account deficit from the March projection of £2.5 billion.

But, for the financial markets, the approach to public spending adopted by the Cabinet yesterday may, in the present fragile mood, be just a little too flexible. The area of local authority finance is always a minefield but the numbers presented by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Nicholas Ridley, to the House yesterday, including a current expenditure limit of £27.5 billion for the English councils, up 7 per cent on the present year, suggests that the achievement of anything like control on town hall spending may have to wait until the poll tax reforms.

When Nigel Lawson took over as Chancellor of the Exchequer soon after

the 1983 election, virtually his first act was to implement £500 million of emergency cuts in public spending. There were some in the City who would have liked to see a repeat performance yesterday.

Without a firm number to fix on for public spending, and with the Treasury freely admitting the spending round is going to be a hard fought one, thoughts in the City will inevitably turn to substantial overshoots. And no one should be surprised if, by the time the politicians return from their holidays, such concerns have exhibited themselves in damaging market moves.

## The Bank's rules

The Bank of England has pronounced on its supervision of the wholesale money markets and created a small cloud of confusion. Institutions applying to be included in the Bank's list of approved players will have to satisfy a number of capital requirements as well as the now-familiar "fit and proper" tests. Institutions which the Bank already knows well — banks, for example — need not bother to supply evidence.

The Bank expects some 150 banks, brokers and dealers to apply for membership of the list but it is not entirely clear why some will choose to opt out of supervision by their own regulators under the Financial Services Act. The bank's system, which applies risk weightings to open positions works on a different basis from that of the Securities and Investments Board's which applies weightings to an institution's turnover during a given period.

The Bank says its system is more appropriate for a market of professional dealers while the SIB's is designed more for retail business. For some companies, such as those with a low turnover and large, open positions, it will almost certainly be more advantageous to remain within the SIB's framework. For those with high turnover and small positions, the bank's system would be less onerous.

It will be an extremely complex calculation for some institutions to decide under which system they will be better off but there could end up being a somewhat illogical split in the wholesale markets with some institutions opting to be listed by the bank and others staying put. The difference in the two systems will also do nothing to reduce the new supervisory complexity of London's markets.

## Smiths Industries acquires LSAS

By Our City Staff

Smiths Industries has taken a significant step in strengthening its already expanding aerospace interests with the £350 million (£219 million) purchase of American Lear Siegler Avionics Systems (LSAS), which makes and distributes military and civil aircraft equipment.

Smiths, which is also involved in marine and medical equipment, is raising £223 million from a one-for-three rights issue of 72 million shares at 310p each to pay for the acquisition.

The final bill for LSAS might vary in step with any changes in its net tangible assets, which stood at \$107.6 million at the end of last month. Provisions may also have to be made if LSAS cannot pass on all the extra costs resulting from design changes to some existing contracts.

Mrs Janet Sidaway, of Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, said: "Lear Siegler is a very good fit with Smiths' avionics business and gives Smiths a strong base in the US. It also makes Smiths a

world player rather than just a UK player."

Analysts said the acquisition will give Smiths a foothold in the lucrative US F-16 fighter aircraft programme, now half way through its run. Smiths' management should also be able to better the margins being achieved at LSAS.

LSAS ran up pretax profits of \$35.2 million in the year to June on sales of \$417 million of airborne electronics systems and equipment for flight management, navigation, weapon systems and data management.

Smiths' aerospace group, which makes flight management systems and displays, weapons and engine controls and fuel systems, has been one of the company's star performers.

Smiths is forecasting a £8.5 million rise in pretax profits for the year to August 1 to £65 million and a final dividend of 4.5p, making 6.5p for the year, representing an increase of 18.2 per cent.

## Arlen in surge to £1.45m

By Michael Tate

Arlen, the electrical and electronics group, has more than trebled profits in the year to end-March, from £467,000 to £1.45 million. The previous year's figures have been adjusted on a merger accounting basis.

Earnings, after another low tax charge, are 11.25p against 3.89p a share, and the company is paying a 1.5p final dividend, making 2p for the year, its first distribution since 1981.

Under Mr Leslie Hancock, a former management consultant, who was brought in in 1984, Arlen has pulled round from years of losses and is now in good shape for expansion.

Commenting on current trading Mr Hancock says the Columbia companies, makers of heat insulation for computers, which were acquired last summer, will see benefits flowing through from new products this year, while Scandinavian Decor, the light fittings business picked up last December, is capable of substantial growth.

## CAP to buy Data Networks

By Joe Joseph

Enriched by a doubling of pretax profits to £5.8 million, CAP Group, one of the leading computer software houses in the United Kingdom, yesterday announced that it was buying Data Networks, which provides computer facility management services.

The acquisition will cost an initial £4.75 million and will be paid for with 1.67 million new CAP shares. Further payments of up to £6.6 million are payable over three years if profit targets are met.

Mr Mike Smith, CAP's chief executive, said acquisitions remained an im-



Mike Smith: acquisitions an important part of strategy

portant part of the growth strategy of the group, which is aiming to provide complete systems management to its

clients in industry, commerce, finance and government. It is also looking to step up its overseas business.

More than 40 per cent of CAP's sales come from the British Government, most of it from the Ministry of Defence.

Facilities management covers the supervision and operation of data processing by an outside contractor either on or off the user's premises. Data Networks claims that typical cost saving on data processing using facilities management is about 25 per cent.

CAP reckons that the market for facilities management

is growing at the rate of 20 to 30 per cent a year and made its first move into the field in May, when it bought London Regional Transport's business services division.

These are two in a string of acquisitions through which CAP is trying to broaden its range of services.

Mr Harry Fryer, a CAP director, said the acquisition of Data Networks, which earned pretax profits of £706,000 on sales of £9.26 million in the 10 months to April, put CAP "in an excellent position to develop the huge potential of the facilities management market."

## Payton's hot line

Larger-than-life restaurateur Bob Payton, he of the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory fame, has produced a delightful tourist booklet, *The Chicagoan's Guide to London*, which should amuse and inform even British readers — unless, of course, they work for British Telecom. Describing it as a survival kit for "coming to London and seeing it like a native", he gives details of all that he loves and hates about the city — which brings us to BT. "British Telecom is one of the worst run companies I have ever come across," he says, adding that if you can find a pay phone, nine times out of ten it won't work, and that the people at directory inquiries are among the most unhelpful he has ever known. "Unless you have the first name, middle initial, last name, exact street address, social security number, colour of eyes and maiden name of mother and maternal grandmother, it is unlikely these folks will be able to get you the number you request." He even gives away the secret of how to make a pay phone call for free. If Sir George Jefferson wants to be let in on it he can buy a copy of the booklet for £1 at any Payton restaurant.

Up fund on Wednesday, they were clearly nervous. At one point Electra chairman Michael Stoddart abruptly cut short a rather lengthy and enthusiastic speech by his colleague Clive Clague about one of its few successful investments. "You want me to... cease?" a plainly troubled Clague asked Stoddart — for all to hear over the microphone. Stoddart's reply was, alas, inaudible. Suffice to say that Clague returned to his chair forthwith.

## Fast track

The personnel department at Midland Montagu is certainly quick off the mark. Sandwiched between articles about threatened mass resignations by its stockbroking staff in yesterday's *Financial Times* is a large advertisement for a "cadre" of top calibre accountants to join its investment banking and securities arm. Promising a "fast-track" career, it also says that the job will "pose exciting and varied challenges." Methinks they speak the truth.

Carol Leonard

## Judge rules on store wars

The tug-of-love battle between old spanning partners Dixons and Woolworth over talented marketing manager John Hertzberg has developed into something of a test case which could have repercussions for the restless employees at Greenwell Montagu *et al*. Hertzberg, who handed in his notice three weeks ago to join Woolies' subsidiary Comet as its marketing controller, was taken to court by Dixons last week in an attempt to get an injunction to force him to serve three months' notice. The case was heard behind closed doors in London's High Court with judgment, reserved until yesterday, going against Dixons. Dixons is now, I hear, considering an appeal and Comet has agreed not to employ the man in question until 4.30pm today to allow Dixons time to lodge it if it so chooses. But despite whatever claims were made before the judge, what is almost certainly more galling to Dixons boss Stanley Kalms is the fact that Hertzberg will be the seventh employee poached by Woolies since his acrimonious bid for the retail group failed a year ago.

## Panel beating

Reluctant to admit that it has been forced to take action to restore its public image following the Guinness affair, the Takeover Panel has nevertheless appointed a Press and Parliamentary adviser — FR firm Westminster Strategy for the first time. "It is a good discipline to have someone

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Hands across the table

Lord Kissin, the 74-year-old chairman of merchant bank Guinness Peat, found himself with an unlikely but nevertheless entertaining luncheon partner the other day. At a Board of Deputies of British Jews lunch in London's Tavistock Square, he was put next to none other than Welsh

TUC stalwart Clive Jenkins. Jenkins wasn't the only non-Jew at the new-style lunch, organised by Willie Nagel, an international diamond broker. Guests of honour were the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, close friends of Nagel's, and also the most prominent lay-Catholics in Britain.

from the outside giving you advice," is all the panel Director General John Walker-Haworth will concede.

### Plain speaking

The ways in which chairmen control their annual meetings are usually more discreet. But when the board of Electra Risk Capital faced unhappy investors in its first Business Start



"The job's yours... you don't happen to have 25 unemployed friends, do you?"

...A year of achievement, pointing the way to future success...



CHRISTOPHER HARDING, CHAIRMAN.

“The past year was a record year. Turnover reached a record level of £792M with exports contributing £152M. Profit doubled to £89M.”

“The company invested £558M in new plants as part of a huge capital investment programme totalling £4,500M over the next 10 years.”

“To ensure that the competitive position of nuclear energy is retained we must achieve further improvements in our efficiency.”

“Last year's improved results owe much to the hard work and loyalty of our workforce which now totals nearly 17,000.”

“The maintenance of the highest standards of safety and environmental performance will remain of the highest priority.”

“We have made significant progress in our drive to improve the public's awareness and understanding of both nuclear power and BNFL.”

“Local communities have continued to give us steadfast support, and we are keen to strengthen our close economic links.”

“We have made a promising start. I have every confidence that the company has a dynamic future.”

### FINANCIAL DIGEST

	1987 £M	1986 £M
TURNOVER	792	629
EXPORTS	152	122
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	89	44
PROFIT AFTER TAX	76	35
DIVIDEND	29	8
CAPITAL INVESTMENT	558	446
ASSETS	2280	1947
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (AVERAGE)	16,940	16,285

Send for your free copy of our Annual Report and Accounts to: British Nuclear Fuels plc, Information Services, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6AS.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

BNFL



[illegible][illegible]

The image shows a vertical strip of a document, likely a ledger or a form. It features a large table with many rows and columns, mostly blank, and a smaller table below it. The text is mostly illegible due to the low resolution and the way the image was captured.

INVESTMENT

1982					1982				
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change
44	129	Alcoa	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
48	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
52	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
56	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
60	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
64	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
68	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
72	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
76	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
80	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
84	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
88	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
92	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
96	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
100	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
104	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
108	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
112	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
116	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
120	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
124	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
128	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
132	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
136	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
140	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
144	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
148	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
152	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
156	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
160	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
164	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
168	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
172	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
176	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
180	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
184	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
188	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
192	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
196	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
200	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
204	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
208	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
212	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
216	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
220	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
224	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
228	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
232	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
236	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
240	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
244	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
248	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
252	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
256	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
260	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
264	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
268	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
272	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
276	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
280	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
284	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
288	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
292	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
296	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
300	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
304	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
308	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
312	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
316	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
320	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
324	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
328	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
332	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
336	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
340	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
344	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
348	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
352	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
356	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
360	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
364	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
368	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
372	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
376	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
380	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
384	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
388	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
392	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
396	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30
400	129	Aluminum	179	10	319	254	Southwest	400	30

COMMODITIES

<p>Current weakened 25-30c in reaction to the non-intelligent attitude expressed by Iran. Considerable uncertainty during the afternoon firmed prices by 10-15c before speculative intraday trade on the market drove them down. Grain products traded firm in continued P&amp;G nervousness. Wheat prices stable, to lower at the close.</p>				
<p><b>ICIS-LOR Group</b> Crude oil cased USD/BBL FOB</p>				
Arctic	20.05	-10		
15 day Avg	20.00	-10		
15 day Sept	19.90	10		
15 day Oct	21.20	-20		
171 Oct	20.05	-10		
<p><b>PRODUCTS</b> Brent/Bell West USA (WTI) Shelf in cmta per barrel deliver</p>				
Gas	195-198	-3		
Normal EEC	2-185-192	-3		
Normal 1H	185-195	-3		
Normal 1H Aug	2-185-195	-1		
175 Fuel Oil	175-177	-17		
Naphtha	175-176	-17		
<p><b>AS OIL (G W Jmango)</b></p>				
Aug	65.25-65.50			
Sept	67.50-67.80			
Oct	69.00-69.50			
Nov	71.50-71.75			
Dec	73.50-73.75			
Jan	75.00-80.00			
Feb	76.00-80.00			
Mar	77.00-80.00			
Apr	78.00-80.00			
May	79.00-80.00			
Jun	80.00-80.00			
<p><b>HEAVY FUEL OIL (Reserve)</b></p>				
Aug	110.0-112.0			
Sept	112.0-113.0			
Oct	115.0-116.5			

LONDON FOX

G W Jmango and Co report

SUGAR (From C. Crammons)

FOB

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May

FIN TRUSTS

	Open	High	Low	%	P/E		Open	High	Low	%	P/E
	Chg						Chg				
12/1	32	33	31	11		12/1	125	127	123	125	
12/2	32	33	31	11		12/2	125	127	123	125	
12/3	32	33	31	11		12/3	125	127	123	125	
12/4	32	33	31	11		12/4	125	127	123	125	
12/5	32	33	31	11		12/5	125	127	123	125	
12/6	32	33	31	11		12/6	125	127	123	125	
12/7	32	33	31	11		12/7	125	127	123	125	
12/8	32	33	31	11		12/8	125	127	123	125	
12/9	32	33	31	11		12/9	125	127	123	125	
12/10	32	33	31	11		12/10	125	127	123	125	
12/11	32	33	31	11		12/11	125	127	123	125	
12/12	32	33	31	11		12/12	125	127	123	125	
12/13	32	33	31	11		12/13	125	127	123	125	
12/14	32	33	31	11		12/14	125	127	123	125	
12/15	32	33	31	11		12/15	125	127	123	125	
12/16	32	33	31	11		12/16	125	127	123	125	
12/17	32	33	31	11		12/17	125	127	123	125	
12/18	32	33	31	11		12/18	125	127	123	125	
12/19	32	33	31	11		12/19	125	127	123	125	
12/20	32	33	31	11		12/20	125	127	123	125	
12/21	32	33	31	11		12/21	125	127	123	125	
12/22	32	33	31	11		12/22	125	127	123	125	
12/23	32	33	31	11		12/23	125	127	123	125	
12/24	32	33	31	11		12/24	125	127	123	125	
12/25	32	33	31	11		12/25	125	127	123	125	
12/26	32	33	31	11		12/26	125	127	123	125	
12/27	32	33	31	11		12/27	125	127	123	125	
12/28	32	33	31	11		12/28	125	127	123	125	
12/29	32	33	31	11		12/29	125	127	123	125	
12/30	32	33	31	11		12/30	125	127	123	125	
12/31	32	33	31	11		12/31	125	127	123	125	
1/1	32	33	31	11		1/1	125	127	123	125	
1/2	32	33	31	11		1/2	125	127	123	125	
1/3	32	33	31	11		1/3	125	127	123	125	
1/4	32	33	31	11		1/4	125	127	123	125	
1/5	32	33	31	11		1/5	125	127	123	125	
1/6	32	33	31	11		1/6	125	127	123	125	
1/7	32	33	31	11		1/7	125	127	123	125	
1/8	32	33	31	11		1/8	125	127	123	125	
1/9	32	33	31	11		1/9	125	127	123	125	
1/10	32	33	31	11		1/10	125	127	123	125	
1/11	32	33	31	11		1/11	125	127	123	125	
1/12	32	33	31	11		1/12	125	127	123	125	
1/13	32	33	31	11		1/13	125	127	123	125	
1/14	32	33	31	11		1/14	125	127	123	125	
1/15	32	33	31	11		1/15	125	127	123	125	
1/16	32	33	31	11		1/16	125	127	123	125	
1/17	32	33	31	11		1/17	125	127	123	125	
1/18	32	33	31	11		1/18	125	127	123	125	
1/19	32	33	31	11		1/19	125	127	123	125	
1/20	32	33	31	11		1/20	125	127	123	125	
1/21	32	33	31	11		1/21	125	127	123	125	
1/22	32	33	31	11		1/22	125	127	123	125	
1/23	32	33	31	11		1/23	125	127	123	125	
1/24	32	33	31	11		1/24	125	127	123	125	
1/25	32	33	31	11		1/25	125	127	123	125	
1/26	32	33	31	11		1/26	125	127	123	125	
1/27	32	33	31	11		1/27	125	127	123	125	
1/28	32	33	31	11		1/28	125	127	123	125	
1/29	32	33	31	11		1/29	125	127	123	125	
1/30	32	33	31	11		1/30	125	127	123	125	
1/31	32	33	31	11		1/31	125	127	123	125	
2/1	32	33	31	11		2/1	125	127	123	125	
2/2	32	33	31	11		2/2	125	127	123	125	
2/3	32	33	31	11		2/3	125	127	123	125	
2/4	32	33	31	11		2/4	125	127	123	125	
2/5	32	33	31	11		2/5	125	127	123	125	
2/6	32	33	31	11		2/6	125	127	123	125	
2/7	32	33	31	11		2/7	125	127	123	125	
2/8	32	33	31	11		2/8	125	127	123	125	
2/9	32	33	31	11		2/9	125	127	123	125	
2/10	32	33	31	11		2/10	125	127	123	125	
2/11	32	33	31	11		2/11	125	127	123	125	
2/12	32	33	31	11		2/12	125	127	123	125	
2/13	32	33	31	11		2/13	125	127	123	125	
2/14	32	33	31	11		2/14	125	127	123	125	
2/15	32	33	31	11		2/15	125	127	123	125	
2/16	32	33	31	11		2/16	125	127	123	125	
2/17	32	33	31	11		2/17	125	127	123	125	
2/18	32	33	31	11		2/18	125	127	123	125	
2/19	32	33	31	11		2/19	125	127	123	125	
2/20	32	33	31	11		2/20	125	127	123	125	
2/21	32	33	31	11		2/21	125	127	123	125	
2/22	32	33	31	11		2/22	125	127	123	125	
2/23	32	33	31	11		2/23	125	127	123	125	
2/24	32	33	31	11		2/24	125	127	123	125	
2/25	32	33	31	11		2/25	125	127	123	125	
2/26	32	33	31	11		2/26	125	127	123	125	
2/27	32	33	31	11		2/27	125	127	123	125	
2/28	32	33	31	11		2/28	125	127	123	125	
2/29	32	33	31	11		2/29	125	127	123	125	
2/30	32	33	31	11		2/30	125	127	123	125	
2/31	32	33	31	11		2/31	125	127	123	125	
3/1	32	33	31	11		3/1	125	127	123	125	
3/2	32	33	31	11		3/2	125	127	123	125	
3/3	32	33	31	11		3/3	125	127	123	125	
3/4	32	33	31	11		3/4	125	127	123	125	
3/5	32	33	31	11		3/5	125	127	123	125	
3/6	32	33	31	11		3/6	125	127	123	125	
3/7	32	33	31	11		3/7	125	127	123	125	
3/8	32	33	31	11		3/8	125	127	123	125	
3/9	32	33	31	11		3/9	125	127	123	125	
3/10	32	33	31	11		3/10	125	127	123	125	
3/11	32	33	31	11		3/11	125	127	123	125	
3/12	32	33	31	11		3/12	125	127	123	125	
3/13	32	33	31	11		3/13	125	127	123	125	
3/14	32	33	31	11		3/14	125	127	123	125	
3/15	32	33	31	11		3/15	125	127	123	125	
3/16	32	33	31	11		3/16	125	127	123	125	
3/17	32	33	31	11		3/17	125	127	123	125	
3/18	32	33	31	11		3/18	125	127	123	125	
3/19	32	33	31	11		3/19	125	127	123	125	
3/20	32	33	31	11		3/20	125	127	123	125	
3/21	32	33	31	11		3/21	125	127	123	125	
3/22	32	33	31	11		3/22	125	127	123	125	
3/23	32	33	31	11		3/23	125	127	123	125	
3/24	32	33	31	11		3/24	125	127	123	125	
3/25	32	33	31	11		3/25	125	127	123	125	
3/26	32	33	31	11		3/26	125	127	123	125	
3/27	32	33	31	11		3/27	125	127	123	125	
3/28	32	33	31	11		3/28	125	127	123	125	
3/29	32	33	31	11		3/29	125	127	123	125	
3/30	32	33	31	11		3/30	125	127	123	125	
3/31	32	33	31	11		3/31	125	127	123	125	
4/1	32	33	31	11		4/1	125	127	123	125	
4/2	32	33	31	11		4/2	125	127	123	125	
4/3	32	33	31	11		4/3	125	127	123	125	
4/4	32	33	31	11		4/4	125	127	123	125	
4/5	32	33	31	11		4/5	125	127	123	125	
4/6	32	33	31	11		4/6	125	127	123	125	
4/7	32	33	31	11		4/7	125	127	123	125	
4/8	32	33	31	11		4/8	125	127	123	125	
4/9	32	33	31	11		4/9	125	127	123	125	
4/10	32	33	31	11		4/10	125	127	123	125	
4/11	32	33	31	11		4/11	125	127	123	125	
4/12	32	33	31	11		4/12	125	127	123		

[illegible]

من زمان الأصل



*Portfolio*  
*C. L.*

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**DAILY DIVIDEND**  
**£4.000**  
Claims required for  
+50 points  
Winners should ring 0254-5

**Claimants should ring 0254-53272**

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

11	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
12	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
13	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
14	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
15	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
16	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
17	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
18	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
19	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
20	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
21	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
22	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
23	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
24	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
25	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
26	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
27	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
28	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
29	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
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63	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
64	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
65	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157
66	Alton	172	177	+5	55	31	157

178	Brown (B)	309	•	17	24	23.4
179	Brown (B)	309	•	17	24	23.4
180	Brown (B)	309	•	17	24	23.4
181	Br Sland	303	•	16	16	16
182	Br Sland	303	•	16	16	16
183	Br Sland	303	•	16	16	16
184	Br Sland	303	•	16	16	16
185	CALA	170	173	1	27	18
186	CALA	170	173	1	27	18
187	CALA	170	173	1	27	18
188	CALA	170	173	1	27	18
189	CALA	170	173	1	27	18
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251	CALA	170	173	1	27	18

[illegible][illegible]

SHIPPING									
315	Great Br Ports	645	645	0	14	8.2	1.3	26.9	
135	Canada	615	617	0	0	8.2	1.8	26.9	
101	Danish (H)	160	165	0	0	6.9	4.0	18.8	
100	West Coast	575	575	0	0	6.9	4.0	18.8	
590	Grp	575	550	-25	0	20.6	3.9	12.7	
100	Japan (H)	550	550	0	0	20.6	3.9	12.7	
31	Mexico Ports	509	514	0	0	5.3	2.0	5.0	
230	Europe Transport	363	363	0	0	12.3	3.4	18.8	
100	Asia (H)	363	363	0	0	12.3	3.4	18.8	
100	Swedish (H)	315	320	0	5	10.0	2.4	16.3	
100	Swedish (H)	315	320	0	5	10.0	2.4	16.3	
375	Turnout Sols	610	630	0	20	12.3	2.0	88.6	

178	Carver Bros.	598	200	-2	118	3	74
179	Carver Bros. SPS	598	200	+10	118	3	27.1
180	Central Hosiery	365	406	-5	7	15	19.5
181	Central Hosiery SPS	365	406	-5	7	15	19.5
182	Cheney & Co.	215	270	-5	13	15	18.9
183	Cheney & Co. SPS	215	270	-5	13	15	18.9
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348	Cheney & Co. SPS	215	270	-5	13	15	18.9
349	Cheney & Co. SPS	215	270	-5	13	15	18.9
350	Cheney & Co. SPS						

117	Lipman (S)	562	571	-3	59	82	17.8
113	James	357	381	-2	51	51	18.7
109	Levin	357	381	-2	51	51	18.7
206	Levin	148	175	-6	92	20	12.5
108	Levin	148	175	-6	92	20	12.5
109	Levin (S)	154	157	-3	69	17	15.5
115	Markov (Hugli)	290	305	-1	+10	15	24.8
116	Markov	290	305	-1	69	31	16.1
115	Markov (S)	220	220	0	79	31	16.1
143	Resnick	137	159	-2	+17	30	14.7
109	SEET	183	186	-3	30	34	10.6
109	SEET	183	186	-3	30	34	10.6
128	SEET	153	166	-1	30	34	10.6
128	SEET	153	166	-1	+2	38	12.5
70	Smolchuk (R)	162	160	+2	74	25	14.1
246	Smolchuk	75	83	-8	+1	18	22.0
246	Smolchuk (Lenny)	200	205	-5	18	22	9.9
246	Tomascak	453	465	-12	15	14	25.2
105	Tosol	142	143	-1	10	41	17.9
225	Tosol	340	366	-26	-13	59	14.4

TOBACCOS						
452	B&W (a)	633	637	-25	19.6	3.1 15.0
118	Camell	166	170	0	-5	
236	Rothmans B	372	373	-6	10.6	2.8 10.3

Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim dividend passed f Price at payment g Dividend and f exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex script or re split t Tax-free .. No significant data.



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# Mudassar bats all day to foil Gating

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

EDGBASTON: Pakistan have scored 250 for three wickets. Rather than moving about for the faster bowlers, as it was expected to do, the ball seldom deviated when the Fourth Test Match, sponsored by Cornhill Insurance, began at Edgbaston yesterday, and the side to be suited by that was not England. Pakistan, after being put in, scored 250 for three, Mudassar Nazir, quite an ancient warrior now, making his ninth Test hundred but his first outside India and Pakistan.

At 83-2, with runs still coming in a trickle, the day had not finally taken shape. But Mudassar and Miandad added 135 for Pakistan's third wicket, and Mudassar was still there at the end. After a good sleep, he could well be there tonight as well.

Seldom on the first day of a Test Match does an innings follow so comfortably a course as Pakistan's. They batted very well, playing after a while

as though they might make a thousand or more if they put their minds to it. I suppose it was too cold for the ball to swing, but nothing happened off the seam either, and when the ball turned, it did so so slowly that there was ample time for adjustment. In the sort of weather, dull and grey, which Englishmen understand, the Pakistanis found a pitch of the kind on which they swell the pages of Wisden with their batting records.

England's shortage of recent bowling was reflected in their lack of strict control, at any rate with the first new ball. They never had about them the look of a side that was expecting anything much to happen. Given a second chance at Headingley, in the Third Test, Gating would no doubt have put Pakistan in. Were he to have yesterday's decision again, he would almost certainly bat, but this was a much easier one to get wrong.

Having decided to play two spinners, England left out Radford, whose accuracy and natural length might have been best suited to the conditions. He would certainly have asked questions of the batsmen where they least wanted them — on and outside the off stump — which could not be said of Dilley and Foster in their opening spells. As if to discourage him from pitching the ball up, Dilley

glorious achievement. But he was a lot faster than that now, his 50 coming in not much more than three hours. At 83, 35 minutes into the afternoon, he lost Mansoor Akhtar, bowled between bat and pad by Foster, the ball on the line and length that England's bowlers had found so elusive.

Miandad was greeted by just about the only ball of the day that flew, and the first, I think, to beat the bat. By tea he and Mudassar had made 70 together, each having had something of an escape. Botham, lunging forward at second slip, got his left hand to a low edge by Miandad off Dilley, and Athey had half a chance of picking up Mudassar at short leg off Emburey. Miandad was 15 and Mudassar 52.

Bowling the first two evening overs from the Pavilion End, Edmonds was despatched for three fours and a six by Miandad, strokes of rare quality and power. These were followed by England's main moral success of the day. On the lowest, sweetest pitch this side of Karachi, the great Miandad sent for a helmet when Botham replaced Edmonds. If Miandad had shed his batting gloves or stripped himself of his box, it would have been more characteristic of his approach to the game.

One early bouncer from Foster had been taken by French off his toes. But the second new ball did bring England a glimmer of hope. Moving it more than the first, and bowling a better line, Dilley had Miandad leg before, either with a full toss or something that yanked the batsman's foot.

Members' rights in MCC row Letters, page 13

had Edmonds standing on top of the bat at silly point. Foster kept sliding the ball down the leg side, and Botham was kept waiting for 30 overs before being given a chance. For the 50 minutes before that, Gating had Emburey and Edmonds bowling together.

It was Edmonds, in fact, who took the first wicket in the fourth over. Shoaib being well caught by Foster, running back at mid-off. To what would have been his father, Hanif's, horror, Shoaib was trying to hit Edmonds back over his head on the first morning of a Test match. A laudable notion, even if cricketing Mohammeds have probably been hanged for less. That was at 44, in the 19th over, and as they were to do, all day, England needed a wicket.

Pakistan were 70 for one at lunch. Mudassar having threatened right from the start to take a lot of shifting. It was against England at Lahore in 1977-78 that he scored the slowest hundred in Test cricket (557 minutes), described in the brochure for the next match as "a truly



Costly: Shoaib's adventurous approach cost him his wicket, Foster taking the catch

## EDGBASTON SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND won toss				
PAKISTAN FIRST INNINGS				
	102	6s	4s	Miss
MUDASSAR NAZIR not out	102	2	36	315
SHOAIB MOHAMMAD c Foster b Edmonds	18	1	4	48
MANSOOR AKHTAR b Foster	26	4	8	86
JAVED MIANDAD lbw b Dilley	75	1	8	145
SALIM MALIK not out	15	2	5	39
Extras: b 4, lb 8, w 1, nb 3	16			
Total (3 wickets, 105 overs)	250			

\*Imran Khan, Ijaz Ahmed, Ishaque Yousuf, Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir and Mohsin Kamal to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44 (2), 2-83 (3), 3-218 (4).  
BOWLING: Dilley 18-2-52-1; Foster 19-4-49-1; Emburey 20-5-34-0; Edmonds 21-1-4-1. Botham 24-5-54-0; Gating 2-0-5-0.

## ENGLAND

B C Broad, R T Robinson, C W J Athey, D J Gower, M W Gating, I T Botham, J E Emburey, J B French, N A Foster, P H Edmonds and G R Dilley.  
Umpires: B J Meyer and A G T Whitehead.

## Light work for heavy police guard

By Alan Lee

The strictest crowd control operation ever mounted at a Test match in England seemed, at times, an unnecessary extravagance in charge of a subdued, half full Edgbaston. There was no racist chanting, no fighting and no overt drunkenness. It looked, in fact, an entirely different stadium to the scene of such alarming ugliness only two months ago.

A few would-be gate-crashers were ejected early in the day: the occasional attempt to bring excessive alcohol into the ground was politely refused. Yet peace generally reigned amid a frictional cricket far removed from the frenetic one-day atmosphere responsible for the original trouble. Urgent action was required just once, when a telephoned bomb scare had to be checked out by a team of

officers searching the Rea Bank Stand.

Over at the police detention room, a centre of chaos during the one-day international, policemen collected meal vouchers in contented calm. The day ended without a single arrest and a spokesman said: "It has been more of a family crowd today. No real trouble at all. It might be different on Saturday, with the place full, but we are well prepared."

There were never fewer than 50 policemen inside the ground, often more. This is a threefold increase on recent years and, in addition, Warwickshire used a large team of stewards, significantly younger and fitter than the traditional incumbents of the job. Police with dogs circled the ground.

For the West Midlands Police it was an impressive show of strength.

## Castle sits out singles

Zagreb — Andrew Castle, the British No. 1, has been dropped from singles play for the crucial Davis Cup relegation tie between Britain and Yugoslavia here over the next three days (David Powell writes). He has been replaced by Stephen Shaw, the British No. 5, who has shown such encouraging form over the last six weeks, during which time he took Jimmy Connors to a deciding set at Queen's Club and won through three qualifying rounds and two rounds proper of the Bordeaux tournament.

Jeremy Bates will play the first singles match today against Bruno Oresar, with the second singles later in the day between Shaw and the Wimbledon quarter-finalist, Slobodan Zivonjovic. Castle will team up with Bates for the doubles tomorrow before Sunday's reverse singles. The match is to decide which of the teams will be relegated from the world group.

Paul Hutchings, the national team manager, said: "Shaw is feeling good and has great belief in himself."

Britain's best test, page 32

## Coles fires a 66 of confounding style

By Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent

Neil Coles yesterday confounded even himself by composing a first round of 66, four strokes under par, in the Seniors' British Open at the Ailsa course at Turnberry. "It was a freak round," Coles said. "I don't think I can play better than that."

For the venerable Coles, aged 53, it was a classic performance timed to perfection as he set about following in the footsteps of Nick Faldo by repelling the invaders from overseas.

Coles, without a blemish, or even a five for that matter, on his card, has a one-stroke lead over Bob Charles, of New Zealand, with Arnold Palmer and the South African, Harold Henning, both one stroke further adrift. Gary Player is also right there after a 69.

"There is more than a touch of pride involved," Coles said. He is the chairman of the PGA European Tour Board of Directors. "You feel that you really want to compete again. There is a new mental attitude."

There is also the small matter of £25,000 at stake. Coles, along with contemporaries such as Palmer and Player, could now be clearing up on the dollar-laden fairways of the United States Seniors' Tour. His adversity to flying remains a natural obstacle as does his outlook on life.

"I've never been a great traveller," he explained. "But at the end of the day it's what you want to get out of life. I wasn't prepared to do the America thing when I was on the regular tour. I'm not prepared to start now."

Coles even refused the opportunity to play in the

Card of course					
Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	350	4	10	430	4
2	378	4	11	177	3
3	393	4	12	391	4
4	167	3	13	379	4
5	411	4	14	400	4
6	222	3	15	180	3
7	512	5	16	409	4
8	427	4	17	500	5
9	455	4	18	377	4
Out 3,315 35			In 3,243 35		
Total yardage: 6,558			Par: 70		

well-being by winning the Trust House Forte PGA Seniors' Championship for a third successive time.

Coles took full advantage of blustery conditions yesterday, with the lightest of breezes ruffling the flags, threading his way around the course with the touch of a master. He missed only two greens and one fairway and the longest putt he holed was one of eight feet at the fifth, which brought him one of his four birdies.

Charles missed only three greens but on each occasion lost a shot. He, however, putted well, including holing one of fully 50ft for a two at the 15th. He had six birdies.

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